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THE TIMES



No. 64,494

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19 1992

45p



Baton charge: supporters attempt to prevent police from arresting Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister, during yesterday's banned demonstration in Islamabad

Bhutto hit and banished

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

BENAZIR Bhutto, the former Pakistani prime minister, was banned from the capital Islamabad and its sister city Rawalpindi for 30 days and removed to the southern city of Karachi after leading a mass protest march demanding a general election. Officials said she had not been arrested but taken into protective custody.

During the march in Islamabad, Miss Bhutto and her supporters were charged by police with carrying weapons. Miss Bhutto took at least one hit but she was unhurt. Tear gas canisters were fired at her vehicle. One of them hit it and one went through a window.

The Pakistan Army later took the extraordinary step of publicly rebuking the two-year-old government of Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister. "It is amazing that a government which claims to have a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly cannot handle this kind of agitation," a spokesman said.

Mr Sharif justified the heavy-handed response to the demonstration by saying that Islamabad, the capital, could have been besieged. He described Miss Bhutto's march as "an act of rebellion" because she had intended to seize Parliament House.

Propaganda victory, page 16
Leading article, page 21

Exam tables open up schools' closed shop

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS struggled off criticism yesterday of the first national publication of schools' examination results and hailed the government's largest postwar publishing venture as a revolution in parental choice.

An estimated £1.4 million has been invested in three million booklets covering each of the 108 local authority areas. The first part of a 93-tonne consignment will reach public libraries and primary schools next week.

The education department's switchboard was jammed by parents wanting copies of the tables. They will be able to place orders from tomorrow through a freephone line (0800 211112).

John Patten, the education secretary, said: "Until today, comparative results have been the private preserve of local authorities which, with certain notable exceptions, seemed to believe that parents cannot be trusted to understand or use the figures wisely. This attitude is now permanently consigned to the dustbin."

The tables detail the GCSE and A-level performance of all 4,400 state secondary schools in England, but the 260

Against widespread opposition from teaching professionals on the merits of publishing exam results parents are clamouring to know how schools have fared

Independent schools listed represent only a quarter of those eligible. All schools will be required to participate next year, when attendance rates and the destinations of leavers will also be included.

The results were being released amid widespread opposition from parent groups, teacher unions and schools. Opponents fear that the tables will spark damaging competition between schools without offering a true reflection of their quality, especially in deprived areas. Mr Patten, however, dismissed any link between social background and school results.

Ministers have promised consultation on the development of a system that will take into account pupils' previous attainment and, possibly, social background. Several terms of academics are engaged on similar exercises and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities will receive a "value-added" analysis of its own results in the spring.

Ann Taylor, the Labour

education spokesman, said ministers' obsession with tables showed their simplistic approach to education standards. "No parents should set too much store by raw results which cannot reflect the real achievements of schools. Unless viewed with caution, tables could unfairly damage the reputation of a school."

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, said: "I am not opposed to the concept of giving parents information, but this is limited information that does not reflect the added value of what goes on in schools. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

Sir Malcolm Thornton, Conservative chairman of the all-party Commons education select committee, said he had less enthusiasm for league tables than had many of his colleagues. "While they are a useful guide to parents, they are not and should not be the sole criterion for a judgment on a school's performance."

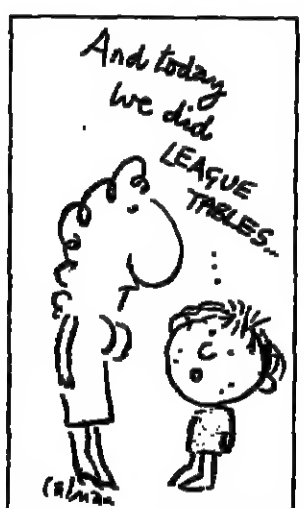
The prime minister, however, was said to regard the

publication of examination tables as the Citizen's Charter in action and the start of a government-inspired "information explosion". The figures raised some "interesting issues" that needed to be worked on.

The London boroughs of Harrow and Kingston upon Thames registered the best GCSE results, their performance bettered only by the single secondary school in the Isles of Scilly. Economically deprived inner cities dominated the lower end of the tables, with the London borough of Southwark in the bottom position.

Queen Mary's Grammar School in Walsall achieved the best combination of GCSE and A-level results. But Keith Howard, the head, said he feared that the tables were potentially misleading and he regretted the creation of a schools' pecking order. The school is a traditional boys' grammar, founded 1554. Mr Howard said: "We have a very wide social spread, including 17 per cent of pupils from ethnic minorities."

However, while 15 schools saw all their 15-year-olds achieve five GCSEs at grades A to C, fewer than one in 20 managed the same in a some comprehensives. At Nugent



Roman Catholic High School, in Liverpool, not one of the 46 pupils included in the survey took five A-C passes and almost half of the age group left without a single GCSE qualification.

All 4,600 schools' results are included in a supplement to today's Times. The schools have been ranked by local authority area, according to the proportion of pupils with five A-C grade GCSEs. Next year, the tables will include all 20,000 primary schools.

Reports, pages 2, 3
Leading article, page 21

Government to sell off last stake in BT for £5bn

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A £5 BILLION sale next year of the government's remaining stake in British Telecom was signalled last night as ministers strove to reassure the markets of their determination to bring public borrowing under control.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, told MPs that there would be a further "major sale" of shares in the company privatised in 1984 in the Thatcher government's first big sale of a public utility. The government's remaining holding is 22 per cent, or some 1,353 million shares. Financial experts predicted last night that it would be sold off in a single flotation with investors paying in two or three instalments.

Mr Lamont was cheered by Conservative MPs as he said that the sale would further promote the government's policy of wider share ownership. But with public borrowing projected to reach some £44 billion in 1993-4, and with the government clearly facing the possibility of having to raise taxes next year, the announcement was clearly intended to show the financial world that it is determined to try to balance the books.

The government's existing financial plans require it to raise some £5.5 billion from the proceeds of privatisation in 1993-4. Receipts already earmarked include £820 million from the third instalment of the Scottish electricity privatisation and some £1,230 million from the redemption of public stock in other privatised industries. If the government received the full £5 billion from the British Telecom sale the

surplus above the £5.5 billion total could, in theory, be used to avoid tax increases.

The receipts are more likely, however, to be spread over the next two financial years. The government's plans also envisage the raising of £5.5 billion from privatisation in the following year, 1994-5. With the timing of the British Coal and British Rail privatisations far from certain, the government's options are being reduced, and in 1995-6 projected privatisation receipts fall to £1 billion. The government will also be able to call on some £2 billion from the sale of the remaining 40 per cent holding in the generating companies National Power and PowerGen.

The announcement was branded "a predictable move by a government desperate to raise cash" by Tony Young, National Communications Union general secretary.

Opening the Commons debate on the autumn statement, an upbeat Mr Lamont said that with inflation below the European Community average and interest rates lower than anywhere else in the EC, businesses had "massive new opportunities" ahead. "Low taxes, low inflation, low interest rates—that is what business has been asking for and that is what they have got."

Mr Lamont gave a further indication of his enthusiasm for encouraging the private sector to become involved in the building of new trunk roads and motorways with users being charged through a system of electronic tolls.

Treasury sale, page 25

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Labour attack over Iraq arms

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is to stage a full day debate in the Commons on Monday to call ministers to account over their handling of the arms-to-Iraq affair.

The party's decision to put ministers on the spot over the alleged "cover up" about the sale of defence equipment to Iraq in the months leading up to the Kuwait invasion, came as the prime minister's office admitted that guidance on exports to Iraq had changed in December 1988.

John Smith, the Labour leader called on the prime minister to apologise to Parliament after having "consistently misled" MPs on the issue. Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Democrat leader demanded an explanation why John Major had not informed him of the change in his letter last week.

On Monday Robin Cook, trade and industry spokesman will try to pin down Michael Heseltine, his opposite number, on ministerial conduct over arms trading to Iraq since guidelines were announced by

Lord Howe in 1985. The motion tabled by Labour aims to set out all the questions to be covered by Lord Justice Scott's inquiry.

It points to a "clear breach" of the 1985 guidelines which prevented the sale of arms related equipment, and questions why no statement was made to Parliament about a covert change in policy. The lengthy motion concludes by accusing the government of being "inconsistent with the security of British troops, with open government and with the just administration of legal process".

Downing Street earlier had to concede that the change in guidelines in 1988 had been revealed to the trade and industry select committee by a foreign office official in January 1992.

The row over Downing Street's latest admission came as the ministry of defence admitted in a Commons written reply that more than 20 countries, including Britain, supplied Iraq with technology



Lord Scott: no fixed idea on witnesses

which could have been used to make artillery or other weapons systems.

Earlier Lord Justice Scott said he saw no reason why police investigations into alleged inconsistencies in Alan Clark's evidence would hinder his own inquiry. Lord Scott said he had no fixed idea about who would be appearing as witnesses and that "it remains to be seen" whether he will call the former trade minister, Mr Clark.

Major accused, page 8

Euro-jargon leaves Prince speechless

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales, in a certain sign that he is human after all, sat in on a session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday and appeared utterly baffled by the torrent of incomprehensible jargon flowing through his multi-lingual headset.

Sitting in the VIP section of the public gallery overlooking the debating chamber, the Prince chose to listen to a debate on the principle of subsidiarity, whose star performer was no less a luminary than Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. As M. Delors launched himself into the thickets of a subject understood only by the initiated few, the Prince's face sank into puzzled bemusement, like that of a bishop in a betting shop.

M. Delors was soon in full flow, liberally peppering his discourse with references to subsidiarity, the *acquis*

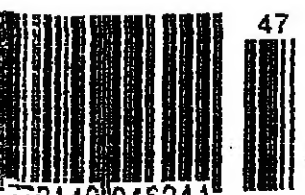
communautaire and "the need for inter-institutional balance". The Prince's years spent studying history and anthropology at Cambridge and Welsh at Aberystwyth seemed suddenly irrelevant.

Most observers offered sympathy for their royal visitor, agreeing that the thoughts of M. Delors sounded, in any language, suspiciously like gobbledegook. The Prince, who takes a close interest in the guarding of national sovereignty and the fight against seemingly ever-greater central powers, confessed afterwards to a group of Euro MPs: "I am a true European, but I don't understand the jargon." He seemed relieved to meet a group of lobbying British mineworkers, who addressed him in perfectly comprehensible Lancastrian English.

Meeting miners, page 5
Unity call, page 14

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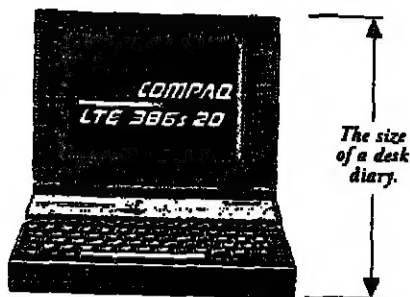
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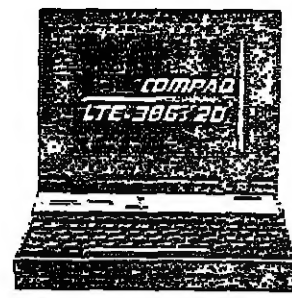
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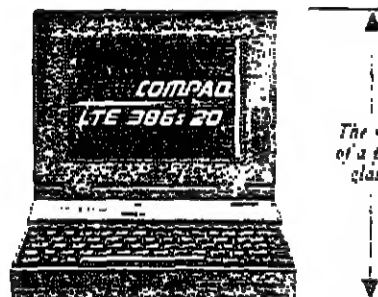
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Doctor was 'not least bit' attractive, says rape accuser

By BILL FROST

A WOMAN alleged to have been drugged and raped by a Harley Street gynaecologist yesterday that she found him physically attractive and that she had taken her clothes off when he invited her to join him in a shower.

Dr Thomas Courtney, 46, of Cricklewood, north London, has denied raping the woman, 26, a secretary from Newcastle upon Tyne, after allegedly lacing a glass of champagne with a tranquillising and hypnotic drug. He has also denied raping another woman and indecently assaulting two more.

The woman denied under cross-examination at the Old Bailey that she found Dr Courtney attractive. Anthony Arlidge QC, for the defence, suggested that the woman, Miss A, had sat on a window sill, drinking champagne and chatting to the doctor as he took a shower, and then took

off her clothes after he invited her to get in.

Miss A said that she would not have wanted to go for a shower with him "mainly because I do not know him and I do not find him in the least bit attractive whatsoever". She told the court that she was given a glass of champagne at the surgery while waiting for a lift to a dinner party. She remembered nothing until she awoke naked in the shower to find him washing her down.

She could not remember much about the following day but had gone to hospital for a "morning after" pill. She said that she could not remember "the actual act", but felt sore and concluded that she had had intercourse. "I knew something had happened," she said. "I was still very dazed and obviously under the influence of what I had been given."

Richard Horwell, for the prosecution, said: "It has been suggested you consented to intercourse. Did you find him physically attractive?" She replied: "Not in the slightest. No."

The friend who was holding the dinner party said that she was livid when Miss A and Dr Courtney arrived three hours late. Then she saw Miss A's face. She said: "She looked terrible: very tired and drawn. It did not look as if she was drunk. It was as if the lights were on but no one was at home. She looked like something out of a horror movie. She just stood there mumbling." During dinner, Miss A said nothing and played with her food. "It was not like her at all," the friend said.

Miss A went to the bathroom and they found her lying on the floor. "She was just grinning at me like an idiot."

The host's husband said that Dr Courtney seemed unconcerned. "He actually made a comment that it was convenient she had not locked the bathroom door." Seconds later, Dr Courtney returned to the dinner table "while my wife and I carried her out". He added: "When I mentioned her demeanour, he said she was all right, there was nothing wrong, or words to that effect."

The trial continues.

Prince stops to hear miners' case

FROM TOM WALKER IN STRASBOURG

THE Prince of Wales yesterday broke away from Conservative MEPs at the European Parliament in Strasbourg to talk to a delegation of British miners and ask them about Colombian coal imports.

The miners, from the doomed Parkside Colliery near St Helens, Lancashire, charged through the cordon of startled MEPs to reach the prince, who gave them a warm reception. "I wish you luck," he said.

The miners, Neil Hardy from Leigh, and Robert Sharples from Wigan, presented the prince with a china plate commemorating the Lancashire coalfield. Mike Graham, a TUC official in Strasbourg with the miners, said: "Charles gave us a much warmer reception than any of the MEPs."

He added: "He spoke with us for some time, asking if our situation was similar to the problem confronting the shipbuilding industry, with subsidised foreign imports affecting competitiveness."



Entente cordiale: Charles meets Catherine Lalumière, Council of Europe official

'Arsonist identified' by ten-second call

By TIM JONES

A TEN-SECOND telephone call helped police to identify an arsonist who, without apparent motive, allegedly started a warehouse fire that destroyed irreplaceable works of art worth up to £100 million. Isleworth crown court in London was told yesterday.

Two paintings by Picasso and Pissarro, estimated to be worth £1 million, were among the measures lost. The prosecution claims that an itemised telephone bill shows that the alleged arsonist was on the premises of James Bourlet & Sons, a company specialising in handling antiques and fine art, when he claimed to be driving home.

Alan Michael Baggs, 42, of Reading, Berkshire, who worked for the company at its high-security premises at Feltham as an air freight manager denies starting the fire in October 1991.

Christopher Mitchell, for the prosecution, said on October 7, Mr Baggs was working late with a secretary, who left with her boyfriend at about 8.50pm.

But, he said, the company's itemised telephone bill showed that at 9.01pm a call had been placed to Mr Baggs' home.

"The telephone bill, which later disappeared, shows that somebody, and by inference it must be Mr Baggs, was making a call from the office at that time."

Mr Mitchell said that although alarm systems protecting the building had been activated at 6.30pm, Miss Smith saw Mr Baggs take the key to the alarm cupboard and open the door. He then said: "Oh, the alarm is all right."

Mr Mitchell suggested that Mr Baggs had switched the alarm off in order to get back into the building. He said that when the intruder alarm had gone off in the central alarm control at 9.09pm it was because Mr Baggs, in his hurry to leave, had made a mistake in resetting it.

Andrew Wade, a police fire investigator, agreed, during cross-examination by Jonathan Coffey for the defendant, that there was no positive evidence of the fire being started deliberately.

Mr Mitchell said: "In spite of intensive investigation there is simply no evidence of motive, no apparent gain of any description to Mr Baggs for setting this place on fire."

The trial continues.

Inquest on patient in power cut

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

AN INQUEST is to be held on a man who died in Hammersmith Hospital, west London, after an electricity failure on Sunday evening. Dennis Bubb, 58, was in the intensive care unit when the power failed at 7.40pm. An emergency generator failed to cut in.

Staff kept Mr Bubb's ventilator working manually, and later moved him to the coronary care unit. When power was restored to the intensive care unit at 9.02pm, Mr Bubb was returned but later died.

A spokesman for the hospital, which is to hold an enquiry into the generator's failure, said yesterday that it had not started because a cut-out linked to the fire alarms had come into operation, and it could not be overridden. The power cut had been caused by a fault at a main sub-station in Shepherd's Bush.

The trial continues.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BBC drops Malawi film after protest

The BBC made an eleventh-hour decision last night to withdraw a programme that compared Shakespeare's *Macbeth* to the dictatorship in Malawi, after complaints from the British Council, which feared for the safety of its staff there.

The programme, *The Post, The President and the Travelling Players*, which was part of BBC2's *Bookmark* series, was due to be shown at 8.10 last night, but was replaced by another film. *The Times* reported on Monday that the programme, made by Jack Purdie, an independent producer, featured a British Council-sponsored tour of *Macbeth* by the English Shakespeare Company.

A statement issued by the BBC said: "After much consideration with colleagues and organisations... it has been decided that the screening of *Bookmark* may jeopardise the freedom and safety of individuals."

Lodger in murder case

A four-year-old boy was murdered in his bed by a lodger who crept into his room at night to commit a serious sexual assault on him, a court was told yesterday. Matthew Robinson "could not have been allowed to live" because his screams would have woken his parents and other lodgers, Mr Paul Chadd QC, prosecuting, told Exeter Crown Court. James Cochrane, 25, has pleaded not guilty to murdering Matthew at his parents' house in Plymouth, Devon, in April this year. Mr Chadd said Mr Cochrane had pleaded guilty to committing a serious sexual offence on the boy, which had resulted in "gruesome" injuries. The trial continues.

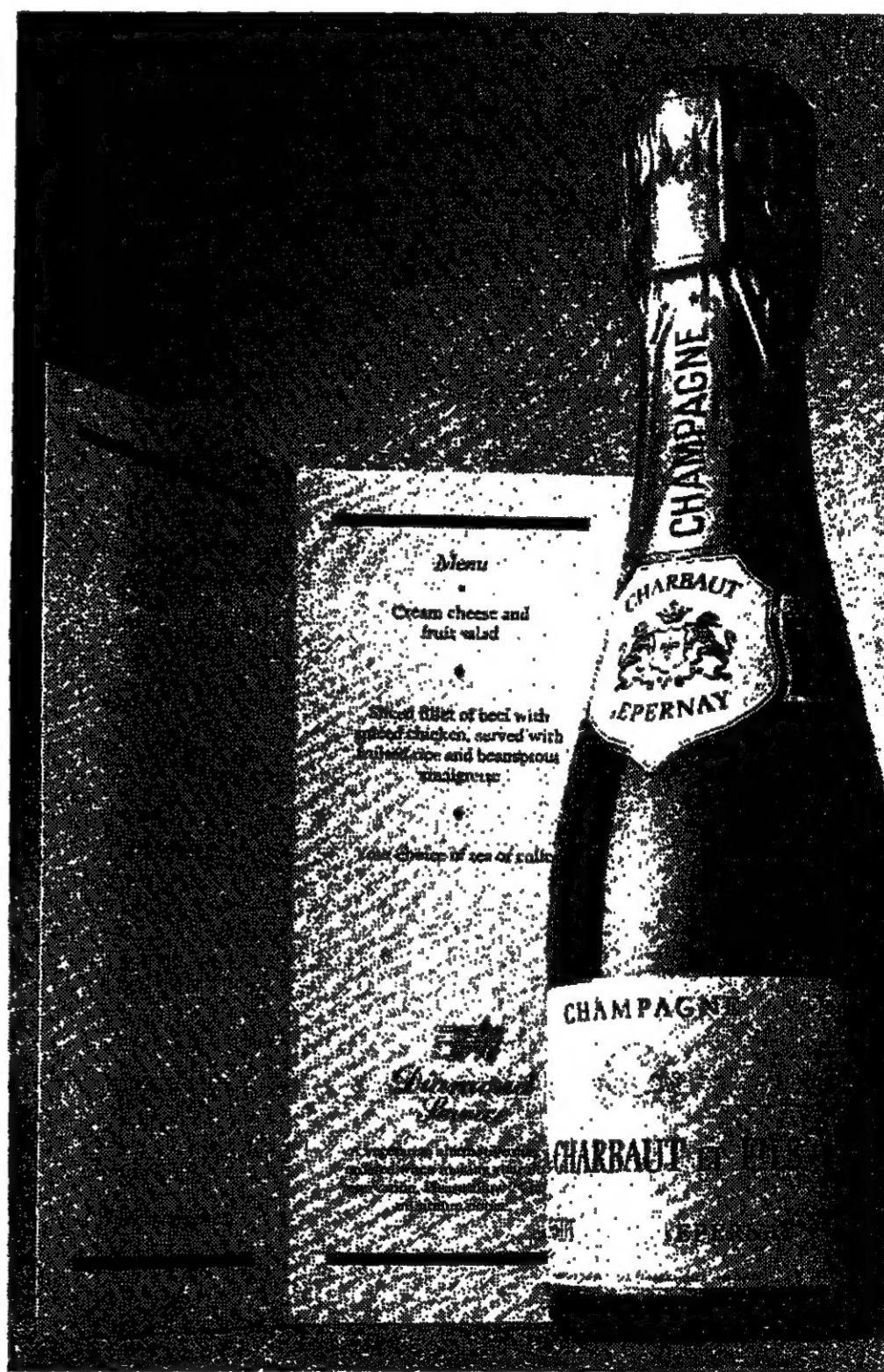
PC shooting charge

Patrick Kelly, 40, of no fixed address, will appear at Arbour Square high security magistrates' court, east London, today in connection with the shooting of a police officer and the discovery of a lorry load of explosives. Mr Kelly was charged last night at Paddington Green police station, west London, with the attempted murder of PC Raymond Hill on Saturday, November 14, in Stoke Newington, north London. He has also been charged with conspiring with persons unknown to cause an explosion likely to endanger life and damage property. A third charge alleges that he possessed an explosive substance with intent to endanger life.

Constable bids too low

A painting by John Constable that was withdrawn from Christie's for unexplained reasons and then offered through Sotheby's failed to sell yesterday. Bids for *Harnham Bridge, near Salisbury, looking towards Salisbury Cathedral* rose to only £850,000 against an estimate of £1 million. Andy Warhol's *Marilyn x 100*, showing 100 duplicated images of Marilyn Monroe, sold for \$3.74 million (£2.52 million) at Sotheby's New York on Tuesday night.

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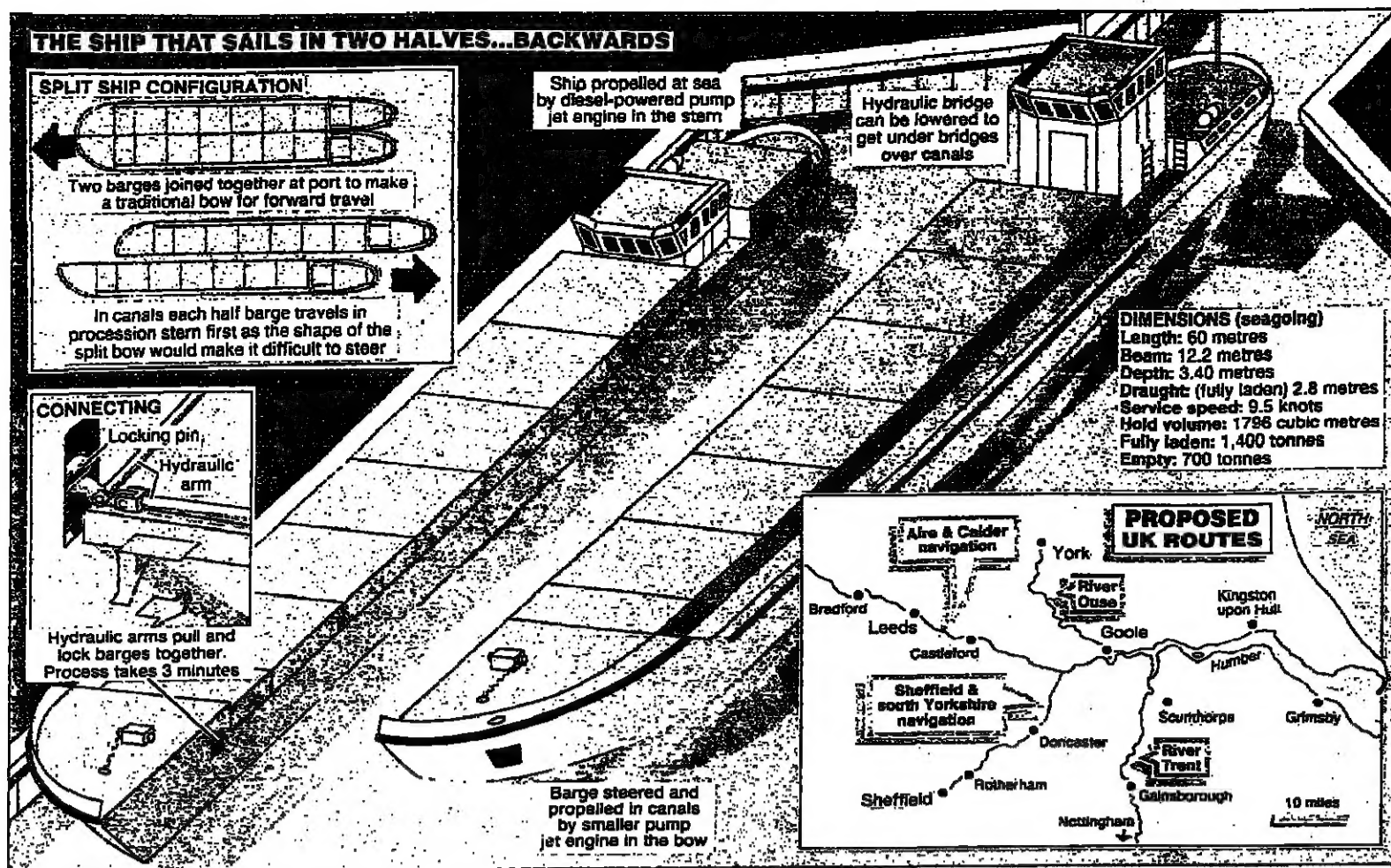
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مكتبات الأمل



Divide and rule: a British development called Split Ship, designed as two canal barges that can be bolted together in minutes to make one ocean-going freighter. Its developers believe that the ship could cut transport costs by about 25 per cent (Nick Nuttall writes).

The vessel, which has a 1,796 cubic metre hold, could play an important role in taking goods off roads and on to the canal networks of Britain and the Continent. It could also help to develop coastal shipping routes for cheap, bulky goods. Currently, com-

panies using canal transport face the costs and time losses linked with transferring freight from barges into ocean-going ships. Tests on Split Ship, which has been over five years in development at a cost of £2.2 million, suggest that it can be transformed from two barges into one ship in about three minutes.

It has been developed by Marine Data International, of Chichester, West Sussex, and Danbrit, of Goole, Humberside, which have been working with British Waterways. Nick MacWhirter, Marine Data's manag-

ing director, said yesterday that they had entered negotiations with users of Continental waterways and hoped to have the first ship built by 1994.

The two half-barges are six metres wide and 60 metres long — the length of a commercial canal lock. They will have to sail backwards down canals because asymmetric hulls would be difficult to steer forwards. In port, the two halves are joined with giant clamps, two of which are fitted at the front and back of the half-barges.

It is hoped to begin running Split Ship along the Sheffield and South

Yorkshire and Aire and Calder canals that join near Goole to feed into the Humber. It is claimed that the cost of shipping steel from Rotherham to Ham, Germany, could be reduced by 25-30 per cent by Split Ship.

Building the first Split Ship will depend on the availability of government grants to encourage freight off the roads. Until now, these Section 36 grants have been available only for taking goods off small and suburban roads. The developers are anticipating a rule change that will give grants for taking freight off motorways.

Toddler killed baby inquest is told

By Peter Victor

AN OPEN verdict was returned yesterday at the Buckingham inquest into the death of six-month-old Hannah Davies, who, the hearing was told, was dropped on to the floor of a playgroup by a three-year-old boy.

WPC Sandra Rowland told the inquest that she talked to the boy and his four-year-old brother the day after Hannah was found dead at a playgroup in Milton Keynes on July 1. The three-year-old was interviewed at a special suite at Milton Keynes police station in the presence of his mother.

The jury was told that the toddler picked up a toy ambulance and said: "That had a little baby in it. It was dead." He was then given small toy ducks and told: "Pretend it is dead." WPC Rowland said: "He lay the toy baby duck in his hand so that it was on its side and partially facing downwards."

Asked what had happened to Hannah, he said: "He fell out his buggy." He said he was alone in a room with the baby but repeatedly said Hannah's mother had tipped over the buggy.

WPC Rowland said she gently asked the child if Hannah had banged her head. "He nodded very slightly," she said. The interview with the boy ended after about an hour and 45 minutes.

His elder brother was also interviewed and said the three-year-old had told him what happened: "He threw the baby out of the buggy and put it back in. It cracked its head open. I don't know what baby it was. He got the baby and threw it out and he put it back in and it fell out of the buggy. He cracked its head open, because it weren't holding on. I think it was a big baby. He said it had to go in the ambulance and go to hospital."

Asked if he thought his younger brother was worried, the boy replied: "Yes, because it was dead. He said he wanted to pick him up more." The boy said he thought his brother had done a bad thing and that he was worried that he was going to be "nicked" because he had thrown the baby.

"It just fell out his hand. He was just there all on his own. He picked the baby out the pram and threw it and he tried to get it back in and he dropped it out of his hands when he tried to get it back in."

North Buckinghamshire coroner Rodney Corner had earlier been told that Hannah was found on a lino-tiled concrete floor in the office at the playgroup. She died soon after arriving at Milton Keynes General Hospital. Julia Wardell, a worker at the playgroup, said she had seen Hannah lying on the floor and also noticed a small boy crouching near the baby.

Dr Richard Shepherd, a Home Office pathologist, said Hannah died from a shattered skull and severe bruising to the brain. An order under the Children and Young Persons Act prevented the naming of the two brothers and the disclosure of any information that could identify them.

NHS drug cutbacks anger manufacturers

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

TENS of thousands of patients face being switched to cheaper medicines as part of a headlong dash between the government and the pharmaceutical industry over the spiralling costs of the £3 billion NHS drug bill.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, plans to impose tight new curbs on the industry in the light of Treasury protests about annual 10 per cent increases in the bill. Her clampdown, signalled in the wake of Norman Lamont's Autumn Statement last week, has drawn furious protests from industry chiefs. They have said that her moves could undermine an industry employing 87,000 and boosting overseas trade by more than £1 billion a year.

They have predicted a wave of job losses among highly skilled scientific staff if Mrs Bottomley presses ahead with her squeeze. The health department disclosed last week-end that as part of its economy drive, about 20 per cent of all NHS prescriptions would be covered by a blacklisting scheme that prevents doctors

prescribing on the NHS some of the more highly priced medications. What ministers regard as cheaper but equally effective alternatives will be offered instead.

However, *The Times* has learnt that the decision to add 10 new categories of drugs to the seven on the "selected list" is only the opening shot in a new battle between the government and the drug industry. Mrs Bottomley is understood to be planning to extend the list further and to impose a new squeeze on profit margins.

Peter Lumley, spokesman for the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry, said last night that tens of thousands of patients would suffer. "A lot of patients are going to be told they can no longer have the drug they are accustomed to unless they get a private prescription and take it to the chemist and pay," Pensioners and people on income support, who are entitled to free NHS prescriptions, would either have to accept changes in their treatment or start paying for their drugs.

Mr Lumley said that the government risked repeating the battles of the mid-1980s over the initial introduction of prescribing curbs and could send relations between ministers and the industry plummeting to levels last seen under the Labour government of the 1970s.

The squeeze has been triggered by figures showing that after modest real growth in the drug budget in the 1980s, it is set to rise by 11.5 per cent this year. Ministers say this increase is "unsustainable".

The measures announced add oral contraceptives and a host of prescription-only drugs such as anti-rheumatic creams, drugs for allergic disorders, anti-diarrhoeals and hypnotics to the blacklist, composed originally mainly of over-the-counter items such as painkillers and laxatives.

Ministers are insisting that patients will continue to receive the right drug for their condition, but they may have to accept a cheaper brand or a generic product with possibly a different dosage regime.



Stretch of the imagination: John Humphreys's sculpture *Stretched Heads* is on exhibition at artMart, at the Business Design Centre, London

Tumim hits at Lewes jail standards

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Correspondent

CLEANLINESS within Lewes Prison is barely acceptable, with squalid landings for young and remand offenders and smelly cells, a new report by Judge Tumim, inspector of prisons, says. The report, published today, adds that visiting facilities are among the worst seen by the inspectorate at any prison.

Most prisoners live two to a cell. There are no proper facilities for washing cutlery or crockery and inmates have to use toilet recesses. This was first pointed out eight years, says the report, but still nothing has been done.

The report, based on an inspection at the beginning of the year, found the prison "noticeable for the poverty of its regime". Both the time out of cells and the patterns of feeding seemed to be designed to benefit staff rather than the inmates.

In a statement on the report Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, said work on the wings, the kitchen and reception areas was under way or would start soon. Instructions about keeping the prison clean had been issued and a new jail in the area would relieve some of the pressure on accommodation. Visiting facilities would also be improved when money became available.

Countryside lost 'at twice official rate'

By Michael Hornsby

THE English countryside is being urbanised at more than double the rate officially admitted and much of what remains is becoming derelict, conservation campaigners say.

Government planning guidance for local authorities, which states that farmland need not be preserved as rigorously as before, is based on flawed statistics and should be withdrawn, they say.

Tony Burton, senior planner with the Council for the Protection of Rural England, will today tell a conference organised by the Country Landowners' Association in Tiverton, Devon: "We have lost far more of England's countryside than anyone thought. What remains is more precious than ever. New and strengthened policies are needed to protect rural areas from damaging urban, commercial and industrial development."

A study commissioned by the council says that 27,500 acres of countryside, an area seven times the size of Windermere, England's biggest lake, are being built over every year, and the government acknowledges a loss of no more than 12,500 acres. The study says this is mainly because the annual agricultural census under-

reports the transfer of farmland to other uses.

Since the second world war, the study says, about 1.8 million acres of countryside — equal to the combined areas of Greater London, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire — have gone, while official figures show a loss of only 1.3 million. At the higher rate of loss estimated by the study, a fifth of England would be urban by the middle of the next century, against 15 per cent now.

In new planning guidance issued last January, the environment department told local authorities that "little weight need normally be given to the loss" of farmland of poor or moderate quality except where agricultural practices contributed to landscape quality in some special way.

Andy Wilson, the council's senior policy officer, will tell a separate farming and wildlife conference in Newquay, Cornwall, that neglect, not destruction, is a bigger threat to the landscape in many areas. The council says that, over the next three years, the government will pay farmers £360 million to leave land fallow under the EC set-aside scheme, but only £3.6 million to care for hedgerows.

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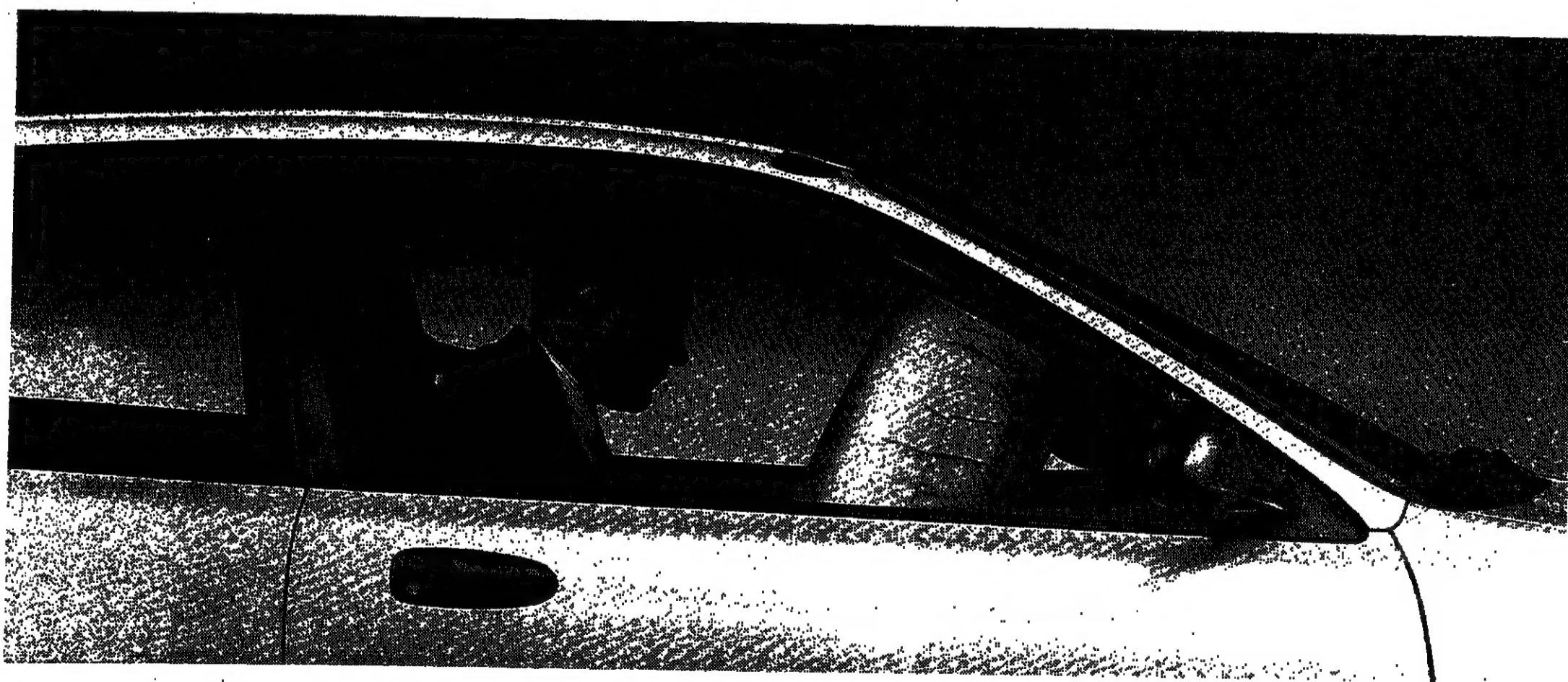
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مكتبة الأمل

Major accused of misleading MPs over arms for Iraq

By JILL SHERMAN AND LIN JENKINS

THE prime minister came under strong attack from Opposition leaders last night after his office admitted that the guidelines covering arms to Iraq had been altered in December 1988.

John Smith, the Labour leader, accused John Major of deliberately misleading the Commons by failing to announce the "significant" change in policy, and called for an apology. He pointed out that Mr Major had denied in the Commons on Tuesday that ministers had misled Parliament about the guidelines. Yet now Downing Street was telling journalists that the 1985 guidelines were changed in 1988, he said.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, challenged Mr Major to "resolve the discrepancies" between the latest admission and what he had said in letters to Mr Ashdown in early 1990 and November 1992.

Downing Street said the changes "had been in the public domain for a long time", having been given in evidence to the trade and industry select committee in January 1992.

Officials released further details of the sequence of events of relaxing the guidelines last night. Immediately after the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war in August 1988 there was "a change in application", a

spokesman said. Although Downing Street admitted for the first time that the wording of the guidelines had been "amended" in December 1988, it was still uncertain when the prime minister had been informed of the change.

Officials confirmed that John Goulson, a Foreign Office official, had told the trade and industry committee that one of the four criteria had been changed in December 1988. The wording had changed from: "We should not approve orders for any defence equipment which in our view would significantly enhance the capability of either side to prolong or exacerbate the conflict", to "Not to approve orders for any defence equipment which in our view would be of direct and significant assistance to either country in the conduct of offensive operations in breach of the ceasefire."

Downing Street said the alteration was "technical" and "not significant". Dual-purpose goods continued to be assessed against "end use".

Labour produced a list of 36 companies, including Marix Churchill, which it claimed

were involved in the supply of defence-related equipment to Iraq. George Foulkes, Labour's defence spokesman, said that Marix Churchill represented the tip of the iceberg. He has sent the list to Lord Justice Scott to consider as part of his enquiry.

Lord Justice Scott said yesterday that he saw no reason why his enquiry should be hampered by the police investigation into inconsistencies in Alan Clark's evidence in the Marix Churchill trial.

He said it was unlikely that he would begin taking evidence until the new year, and that he had not yet decided who those witnesses would be. He denied suggestions that the police investigation into statements by Mr Clark and his evidence to the Marix Churchill trial would pose problems for his enquiry.

The investigation into Mr Clark's evidence will assess whether the inconsistencies amounted to making false statements. If so he could face prosecution which could put him in a position of double jeopardy under which he might refuse to give evidence to the enquiry.



Getting down to work: Lord Justice Scott, who will head the arms for Iraq enquiry, at his desk yesterday

MPs get reward for loyalty over Europe

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FIVE new "loyalist" Tory MPs have been promoted to the first rung of the ministerial ladder as parliamentary private secretaries.

The MPs, all members of the 1992 intake, have been rewarded for supporting the government on Maastricht by

being appointed as unpaid aides to ministers. One earned his advancement by removing his name from a Commons motion challenging the Maastricht treaty and calling for "a fresh start" on Europe.

The MPs will be the "eyes and ears" of ministers in the Commons and report on backbench reaction and will be expected to support the

government in all Commons votes.

Stephen Milligan (Eastleigh) will serve as PPS to defence procurement minister Jonathan Aitken, a sceptic about closer ties with Europe.

George Kynoch (Kincardine and Deeside), who will serve Foreign Office minister Alastair Goodlad.

Hartley Booth (Finchley) will be PPS to Foreign Office minister Douglas Hogg. Mr Booth signed the "fresh start" motion in June, but later withdrew his name.

Jonathan Evans (Brecon and Radnor) will serve Northern Ireland minister Michael Mates.

Michael Bates (Langborough) is PPS to social security minister Nicholas Scott.

Tory whips face up to Maastricht losses

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD Ryder, the Chief Whip, has warned John Major that he cannot guarantee winning every vote on the bill ratifying the Maastricht treaty. As all sides finalise tactics before starting the committee stage scrutiny in two weeks, Mr Ryder is to concentrate his forces on fighting off key amendments which, in effect, wreck the treaty. He has made clear to Mr Major that, with a Commons majority of 21 and uncertainty over Labour's strategy, some "minor" amendments could be lost.

However, the EC-sceptics believe that any change to the treaty will wreck the ratification process as the treaty would need re-negotiation.

After doing his arithmetic, Mr Ryder is also understood to have ruled out any attempt to "guillotine" debate by trying to set a timetable for the committee stage.

The crucial votes on a referendum, moves towards economic and monetary union and European citizenship are likely to be delayed until the new year.

who selects the amendments, and a deputy Speaker, Michael Morris, who will largely chair the committee stage. He has told MPs that he intends to allow full and fair discussions, but stamp on attempts to filibuster.

The number of amendments is likely to total 400 by the end of the week, most from Conservative and Labour Euro-sceptics.

A "gentle" start is likely in the run-up to the Edinburgh EC summit, with Labour making most of the running. But the bill's opponents on the Tory benches have tabled an early amendment to incorporate Title I, setting out the treaty's main principles, into the European Communities (amendment) bill.

The crucial votes on a referendum, moves towards economic and monetary union and European citizenship are likely to be delayed until the new year.

who selects the amendments, and a deputy Speaker, Michael Morris, who will largely chair the committee stage. He has told MPs that he intends to allow full and fair discussions, but stamp on attempts to filibuster.

Bill rocks hereditary boat in the Lords

By Sheila Gunn
political correspondent

A most blatant form of sex discrimination in public life has split the House of Lords.

Lord Diamond, a life peer, sees his hereditary peerages bill as a modest reform of the system, giving peers the option of passing on their title, and seat in the Lords, to their eldest daughter rather than to their eldest son.

It has sent shivers down the spines of many hereditary peers who fear that any debate on the amendment-of-birth principle will merely show up the anomalies of the system.

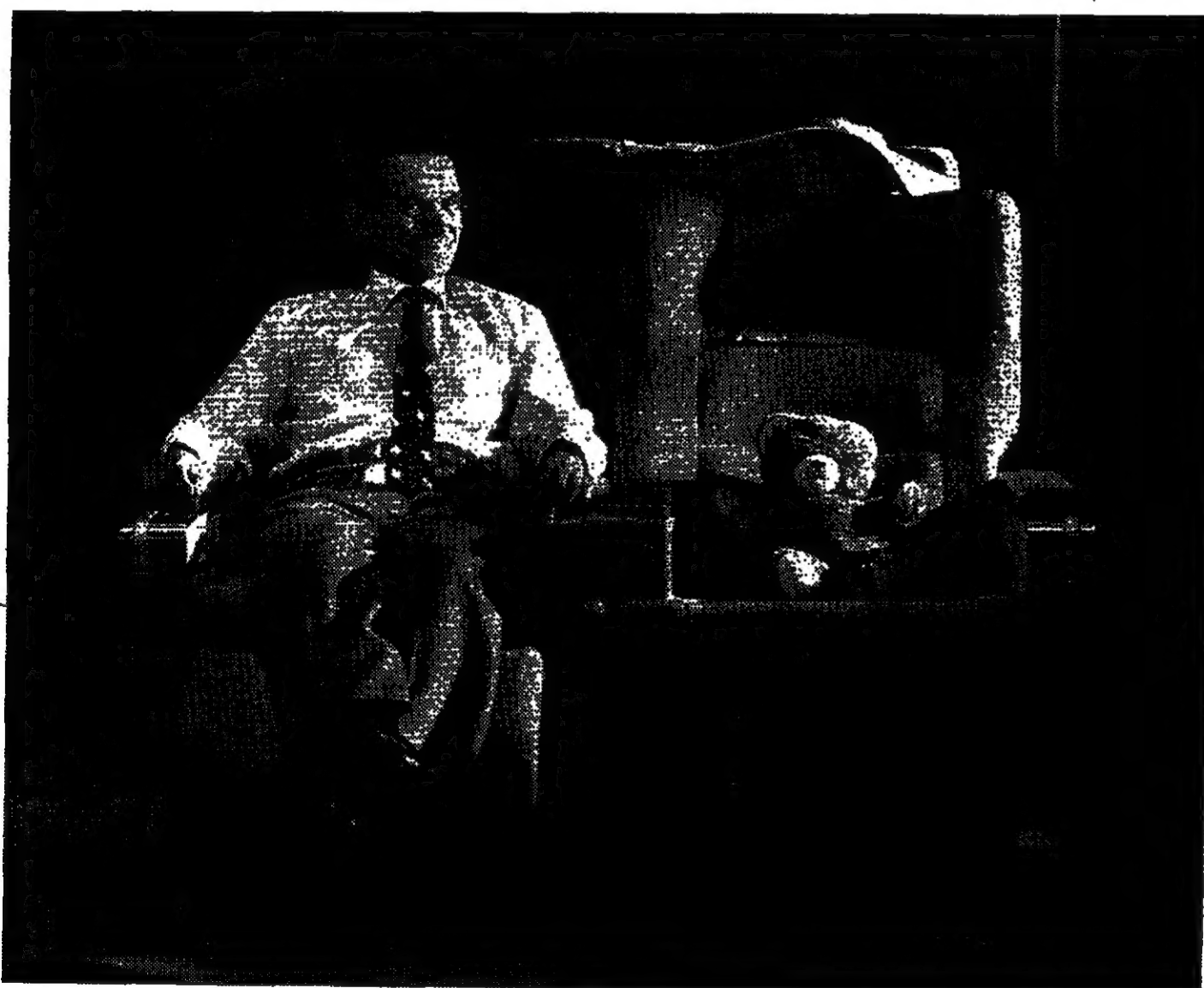
The case for changing the law by requiring the Queen to change all letters patent passing on titles to the eldest child, irrespective of sex, is excellent. Only 18 women out of a total of 758 peers by succession are entitled to sit in the Lords. There are no women on the Bishops' benches nor among the Law Lords. A total of 59 of the 373 life peers are women. Ancient Scottish titles, and those given to the great war leaders, go down through the heirs general, accounting for the small group of women hereditary peers.

The bill put forward by Lord Diamond, chief secretary to the Treasury in the Wilson government, former leader of the SDP peers, who now sits among the independent peers, comes up for second reading next Thursday.

He said yesterday: "The House of Lords passes sex discrimination laws and is forward-looking in many ways. But in its own affairs it continues a system that had its validity when peers had to come along clad in armour with lots of troops."

He has support from some hereditary peers, such as Lord Redesdale, the "fanny" of the Lords at 25. "Bertie" Denham, an hereditary peer and former government chief whip, is marshalling opposing forces behind his wrecking amendment to kill the bill.

Caught in the middle is Lord Michael of Clonsilla, the Lord Chancellor. As a "lifer" a Scot, and campaigner for women in public life, he initially saw little objection to the idea. But if he sanctions Lord Diamond's bill, he will be opening up a can of worms.



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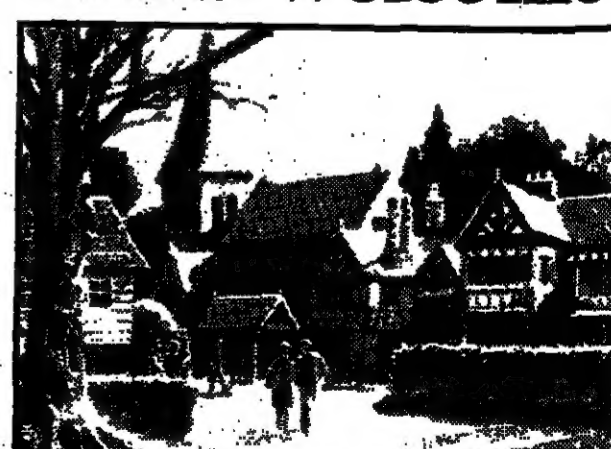
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FORTE HOTELS

£750m buy-out unlikely to boost house prices

By Rachel Kelly
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE government's £750 million plan to buy up empty property is unlikely to have much impact on the housing market. Housing associations, which are charged by the government to spend the money, have made it clear that they are unlikely to buy many repossessed homes, preferring to buy new houses in better condition.

This would mean added demand for the builders, but would do little to help house prices, which are being depressed by forced sales of repossessed property.

Jim Coulter, director of the National Federation of Housing Associations, said: "Associations are looking for the best value schemes. This must immediately give an advantage to developers seeking to sell unsold homes." Such property is likely to be

easier and cheaper for associations to manage. It will also be to a minimum standard required by associations.

Housing associations are not charged with helping the housing market, but to house people in housing need, Mr Coulter said. "We can't cure all the ills of the housing market."

John Wriglesworth, hous-

ing analyst from UBS Phillips & Drew, who is also a director of a housing association, said: "Associations will want to buy new. The scheme will help the builders and the housing associations but do nothing for the market."

Mark Boleat, from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, admitted that if housing associations did decide to buy

new property, that would limit the impact of the government's scheme on the housing market. But he argued that housing associations would choose property on the basis of price, not whether it was repossessed or new. "In certain areas, associations will have no choice because new homes will not be available." Associations would also be attracted by deals with lenders to buy repossessed homes because building societies might also offer cheap loans.

Analysts also criticised the government's plan by saying that 20,000 homes were a drop in the ocean compared to the number of empty properties up for sale. Dr Wriglesworth said: "There are 225,000 empty homes on the market."

The government will spend the bulk of its £750 million to buy empty properties in London and the South-East,

with the largest slice to be spent in Kent, Surrey, and East and West Sussex. Only £9.14 million will be spent in Merseyside compared to £113 million in London and the southern home counties.

Associations involved, to be announced on Friday, will be among the biggest in the country and are expected to include Circle 33, Paddington Churches, London and Quadrant, and the Notting Hill Housing Trust in London; and the North British, North West Berkshire, Bedfordshire Pilgrims, Liverpool Housing Trust, Southern Counties Group, and Knightsbridge housing associations outside the capital. About 24 housing associations have been selected.

The rest of the money will be spent on incentive schemes for tenants to buy their own homes, and separate budgets in Scotland and Wales.

WHERE THE MONEY WILL GO

Housing Association	Funds received (£m)	Number of homes to be built
London & home co, N-E	92.79	2,064
London & home co, N-W	84.70	1,719
London & home co, South	113.06	2,719
West Regional Office	79.99	2,703
East Midlands	57.17	1,985
West Midlands	44.16	1,616
North-East	50.43	1,822
North-West	42.86	1,541
Merseyside	9.14	330
Total	£577m	18,499

Source: Housing Corporation

Chancellor sees economic hope in Autumn Statement

Lamont urges business to 'seize the opportunity'

By Robert Morgan and Arthur Leathley

THE Chancellor yesterday called on business and industry to take advantage of the changed economic circumstances to invest and export, and he pointed out the benefits to foreign companies of investing in Britain.

Opening the Commons two-day debate on last week's Autumn Statement, Norman Lamont said that low inflation, the lowest interest rates for nearly 15 years, time-limited tax measures, low rates of tax and good industrial relations gave Britain the edge as a place to invest and do business.

He said the country now had inflation below the European average, interest rates lower than anywhere else in the European Community, the lowest corporation tax anywhere in the industrialised world and the best industrial relations record ever seen. On top of all this, he said, exporters now had a 15 per cent advantage with the fall in the value of the pound following withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism.

In the weeks and months ahead the government would

be encouraging business to seize the opportunities provided by the new environment. Businesses had been asking for low taxes, low inflation, low interest rates and a competitive pound "and that is what they have got".

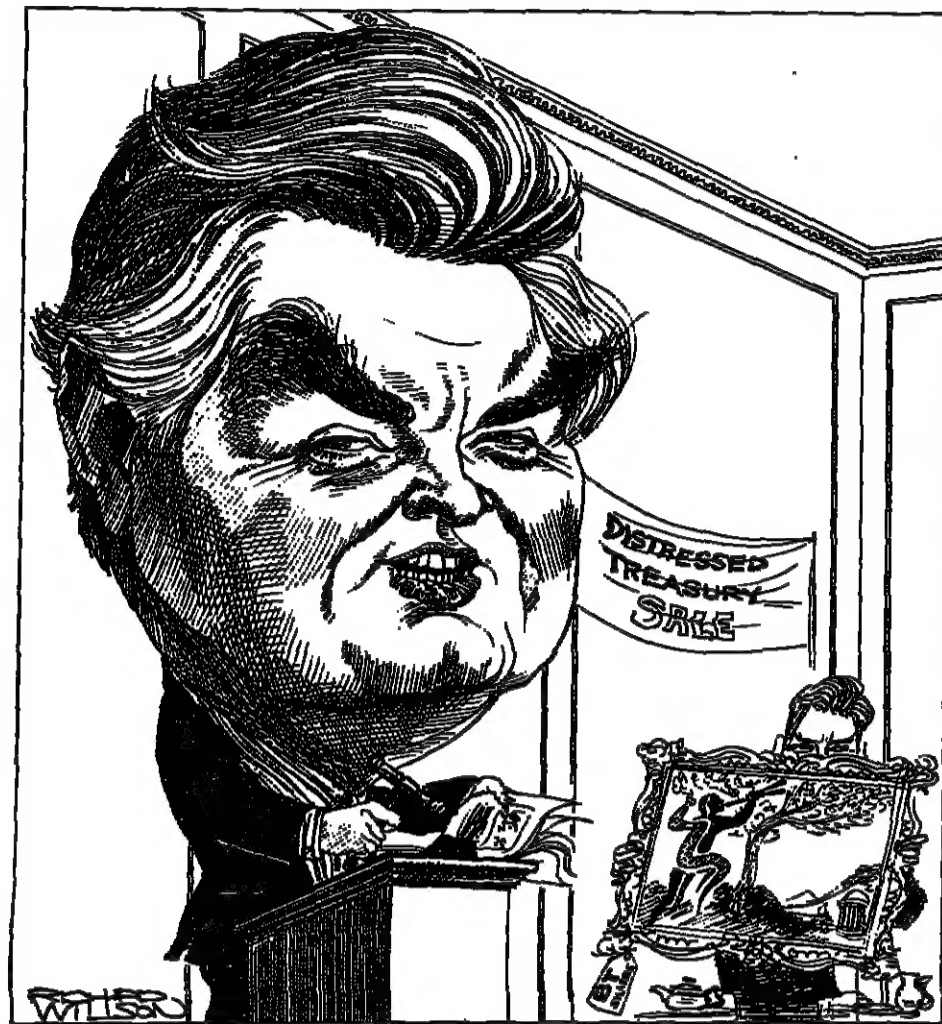
The Autumn Statement had been based on two principles: low inflation and the tight control of public expenditure. They were crucial for lasting economic recovery and a sustainable reduction in unemployment. The dramatic progress in reducing inflation had led to lower interest rates. "More than anything else it was that relaxation of monetary policy that would help to get Britain back to work."

Mr Lamont said that next year £6.3 billion would go on roads, more would be invested in British Rail than in any year in the 1980s, a record £2.1 billion would be spent on capital projects in the health service and more on homes through the Housing Corporation. There would be hundreds more capital projects plus £1,400 million for Channel tunnel related projects and the Jubilee line extension in London, which would create about 12,000 jobs.

The government was also determined to invest in people and that was why priority had been given to education and health. Education spending would rise by 6 per cent next year and spending on the health service would rise in real terms in each of the next three years. None of this could be achieved without tight control on public sector pay, he said. Many in the private sector had had a pay freeze or a pay cut; a 1½ per cent pay ceiling in the public sector was quite justified.

Mr Lamont said that the government had followed a privatisation policy for many years and in 1993 would hold another major sale of shares in British Telecom. "This will tend further to promote our policy of wider share ownership," he said.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, labelled the Autumn Statement as the final admission that the free-market economics of the 1980s had failed. The introduction of investment incentives for industry was recognition by the government that its past



strategy had failed and that "simply waiting for free-market forces to work was simply not enough".

With three million out of work, one million of them long-term unemployed, and investment falling, the statement put to the Commons. There was an admission, through extra funding for the Insolvency Service, that bankruptcies would continue to rise and Mr Brown claimed they would reach double the number of two years ago.

Although welcoming some of Mr Lamont's measures which had been announced "belatedly", he said that the Chancellor had done nothing significant to address the present problems. The government still had no long-term industrial or economic strategy for bringing about recovery

and the reduction in funding for the trade and industry department would soon be spending less on Britain's future than the national heritage department was putting into preserving Britain's past.

Apart from the restatement of the government's intention to extend the Jubilee Line in London, there were no capital projects announced throughout Britain.

Mr Brown accused the government of failing to restore confidence and added that there was no hope of the public or businesses investing when "they don't know from week to week what the policy of the government is and whether they will have the guts to stick to it".

John Biffen, a former cabinet minister, congratulated the Chancellor on the reception to his statement but said

he had three major concerns about the government's new look economic strategy.

These were the "formidable" level of public borrowing, the 1.5 per cent public sector pay limit combined with the prime minister's call for the private sector to follow suit, and the government's determination not to raise taxes. "I don't think President Bush did himself or America much good when he said 'watch my lips, no more taxes'," Mr Biffen said. He warned that the country should "prepare itself to see an increase in taxation at the next Budget".

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, criticised the government for planning real cuts in the overseas aid budget and for failing to provide sufficient funds for capital projects. He mocked the government's new tripartite economic strategy of devaluation, a fiscal boost and an incomes policy as qualifying the Chancellor for honorary membership of the Cambridge group of Keynesian economists.

Crutley Onslow, Tory MP for Woking and former chairman of the 1922 committee, joined the growing band of Conservatives who have criticised the high street banks for their failure to cut interest rates in line with base rate reductions. He said they should be more supportive and more understanding of the needs of small businesses.

BT sell-off, page 25

Price of unemployment

UNEMPLOYMENT is now costing £24.3 billion, the Labour party said yesterday as it released new figures showing that the number out of work has risen by 71 per cent since John Major became prime minister.

Labour's new estimates about the cost of unemployment are likely to prove contentious, even though Frank Dobson, the party's employment spokesman, said they were based on a figure of £9,000 per person a year in

taxes immediately foregone and benefits paid out which had recently been confirmed by Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary.

Using the government's own unemployment figures, Labour said that on this formula, the cost of unemployment in October stood at £24.372 billion. In line with current unemployment levels across the country, the cost was highest in London at just over £4 billion, and £3.95 billion in the rest of the South-East.

The optimistic view from Number 11

Norman Lamont is an admirer of Nigel Lawson's memoirs, *The View from Number 11*, and has evidently adopted one of the precepts of his former boss. Lord Lawson "remains unrepentant that a climate of optimism was what Britain needed in the 1980s and what it continues to need today... For too long the British had been born learning to live with decline and defeat. The unfamiliarity of optimism and success proved rather too heady an experience in the late 1980s. But it need not and must not do so in the future."

So the Chancellor yesterday cast aside his sceptical instincts and became Mr Optimism, the Dr Pangloss of the Treasury. He noted that "British exporters are now nearly 15 per cent more competitive in foreign markets than they were just two months ago." That is one way of saying that

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

sterling was forced out of the exchange-rate mechanism and has been devalued, contrary to everything he said up to September 16.

Mr Lamont's message was that he had responded to what businessmen wanted. The government had done its job. "Now is the time for managers and business leaders to make the most of these opportunities to invest, to export and to build for the future." After the setbacks of September, it is perhaps right to be upbeat. Confidence, of consumers and businessmen, is the obstacle now. But such talk can sound complacent when unemployment is still rising.

Yesterday's Commons debate on the Autumn Statement was curiously unreal.

Mr Lamont's package has dampened the immediate fire. But he has only won a respite.

The support of Conservative MPs is conditional on the economy at last showing signs of picking-up, or at least of not deteriorating further, by the spring. Gordon Brown, in a sharper performance than last Thursday, questioned whether last week's package amounted to a long-term strategy.

Mr Lamont has done what he can, but he has few options. The evidence which he and Michael Portillo gave earlier in the week to the Treasury committee underlined the medium-term risks, over a rise in inflation and too sharp a fall in the pound, both of which would trigger higher interest rates.

The big hole in the government's strategy is not just the timing of economic recovery

but also when sterling will return to the ERM. Such a commitment cannot be given because it would split the Conservative party.

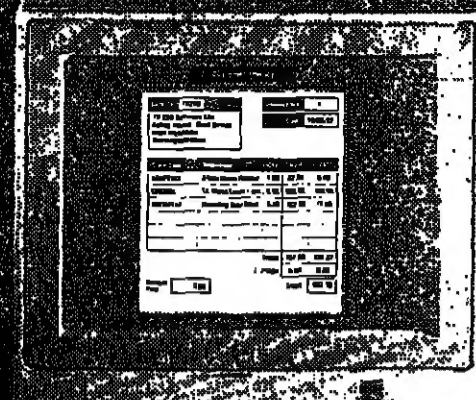
The pressures on public finances are also acute, for all ministers' reluctance to talk about the size of the underlying deficit. That was symbolically underlined with the announcement of the sale next year of British Telecom shares. This is the last of the big privatisation lots. Privatisation proceeds will decline in the 1990s, as North Sea revenues did in the 1980s.

So the last of the Canaletto is to go, as Harold Macmillan once memorably remarked. That leaves just a few Dutch genre pictures of the type that decorate the walls of the Chancellor's Treasury office. The old family is having to face up to the harsh realities.

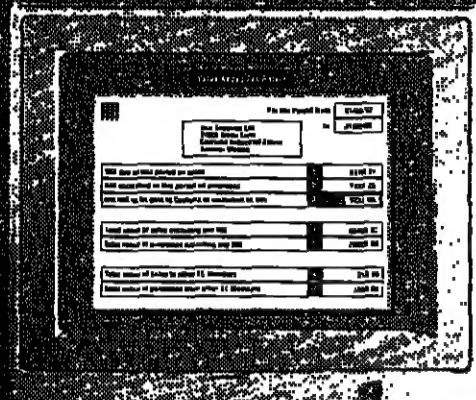
PETER RIDDELL

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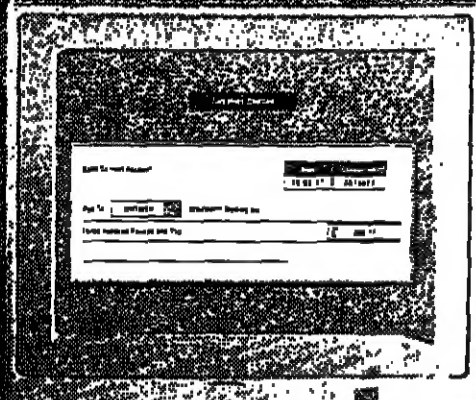
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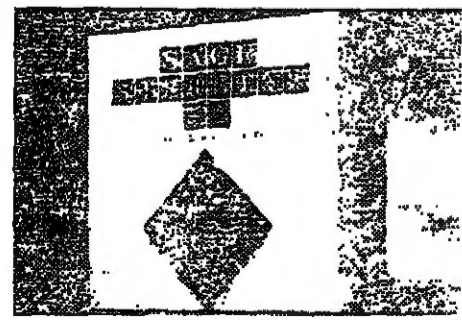
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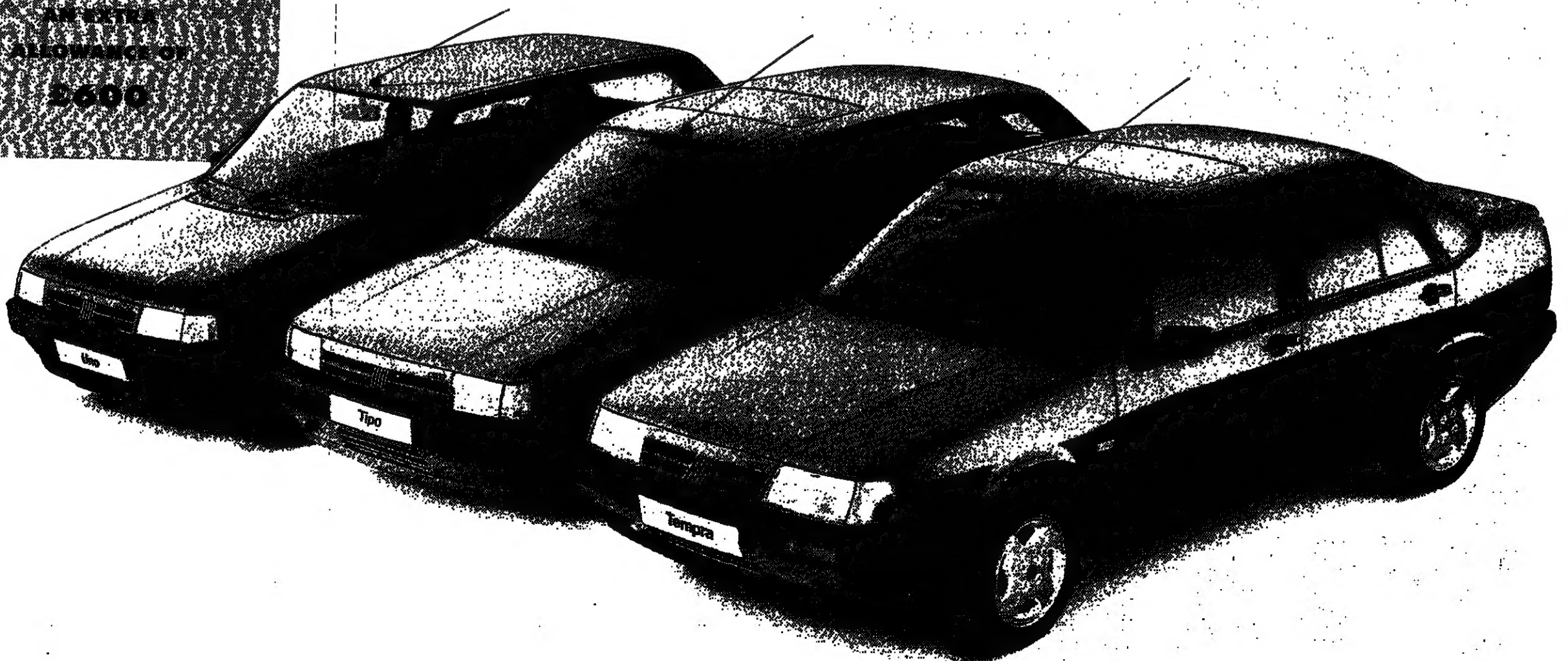
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APR 12 1993

Lovers deny hiring hitman to murder husband

TWO lovers hired a contract killer to murder the woman's husband, a court was told yesterday. Noleen Hendley, a mother of three, and Terry McIntosh, her boy friend, were consumed with passion and hatched a plot to kill Tony Hendley, 46, it was said.

During the night of the attack, Mr McIntosh spent the evening out drinking with the victim before Mr Hendley returned home, where Paul Buxton was lying in wait. Brian Scott Cox QC, for the prosecution, told Nottingham Crown Court. Mr Hendley was bludgeoned with a rolling pin, suffering such extensive head injuries that two days later doctors declared him brain-dead and his life support machine was switched off.

Mr Scott Cox said Mr McIntosh gave Mr Buxton a down payment of £1,000 to kill Mr Hendley, and agreed a second payment of £1,500 after the killing, with subsequent payments totalling either £2,000 or £3,000 after Mr McIntosh had sold his house. Before the final attack at least six other attempts on his life were planned, all of which, for one reason or another, were aborted or did not come to fruition, he said.

Noleen Hendley, 46, of Breadsall Hilltop, Derby, and Mr Buxton, 41, of Loscoe, Hleanor, Derbyshire, deny murdering Mr Hendley on November 1 last year. The jury was told Mr McIntosh, of Little Eaton, Derbyshire, has pleaded guilty to the murder.

Mr Scott Cox said that behind the attack was a plot which the jury might feel was "astounding for its wickedness and persistence". It was also a dreadful irony that it began out of the love two people had for each other.

Mr McIntosh, a widower, had a daughter, Kay, 19, who became engaged to the Hendleys' son, Shane, 21. Mrs Hendley and Mr McIntosh fell for each other after the parents met to discuss arrangements for the wedding, which took place in July 1991. After the first meeting

Mrs Hendley and Mr McIntosh began to meet on their own and soon realised they were attracted to each other. They eventually had sexual relations. "Thereafter they were consumed with a terrible passion for each other which brooked no interference and they had sex as frequently as they possibly could without detection."

Mr Scott Cox said that, after their children married, Mr McIntosh began to press Mrs Hendley to leave her husband, but she was not willing to separate or divorce. During September last year, possibilities of an alternative to leaving Mr Hendley were allegedly mooted.

He said the Crown accepted that the original idea of disposing of Mr Hendley came from Mr McIntosh, who contacted Mr Buxton and asked him whether he was willing to kill someone for money. Mr Scott Cox said that on the night of the attack Mr Buxton was let into the house by Mrs Hendley, who remained downstairs.

Her husband suffered 29 separate blows to the head after Mr Buxton leapt at him at the top of the stairs, striking him with a rolling pin. Despite his injuries Mr Hendley partially undressed and got into bed, where he was later found by the emergency services.

The case continues.



Divorce tussle: the Rolling Stones guitarist Bill Wyman, right, and his former wife, Mandy Smith, arriving at the High Court in London yesterday, where the hearing over the terms of their divorce settlement continued in private.

Miss Smith, 22, of Muswell Hill, north London, divorced Mr Wyman, 56, in May last year after less than two years of marriage. They met when Miss Smith was 13 and married in June 1989.

Miss Smith, dressed in a charcoal-grey pinstripe suit and patterned scarf, looked pale and downcast at the lunchtime adjournment. She ignored reporters as she walked alone from Court 31



to join her mother and sister in an ante-room.

Mr Wyman, dressed in a grey suit and blue tie, smiled and joked with his lawyers as he left the court on the third day of the hearing before Mr Justice Thorpe. He, too, ignored the media. The hearing is expected to continue all week.

French pin hopes on buoyant year for Beaujolais

By ALAN HAMILTON

ECONOMIC gloom laid upon rumours of a highly variable vintage notwithstanding, British wine importers are expecting buoyant sales for this year's Beaujolais Nouveau when it arrives in the country today. Shippers are advising drinkers to adhere to the better-known labels, as there may be a certain amount of rubbish about.

Last year's Beaujolais is being spoken of as one of the great vintages of the century, thanks to a perfect growing season for the Gamay grape. This year, summer in the vineyards was slightly back to front, with the hot spell in the middle rather than at the end.

The French, as ever, are *malheureux*, with wine prices in general tumbling below the cost of production. The news, however, is good for the British consumer. In spite of a poor exchange rate against the franc, the Nouveau should be on sale in large chains at between £2.50 and £2.99 as retailers take note of the depressed economy and try to clear stocks before their serious Christmas trade begins.

According to the Wine & Spirit Association, sales of light wines have grown by nearly 10 per cent this year, at the expense of sparkling and fortified wines. More than 80 per cent of all the wine now sold in British shops is on the shelves at £3 a bottle or less.

Suggestions that the whole idea of the Nouveau, a gimmicky wheeze of the 1970s, is seriously *passé* are anathema to the wine trade. Kate Teesdale, of the promotional

organisation Food & Wine from France, yesterday pointed to the flattery of imitation. The Italians had attempted to muscle in on the act this year by trying to promote their equivalent, Bardolino Novello. On the other hand a recent French attempt to promote Vin Du Pays Nouveau appears to have fallen flat.

Anthony Sykes, of the London wine shippers Ernst Gorge, reported that the Nouveau was as popular as ever in the retail trade, but that wine bars and restaurants were increasingly turning up their noses at what they regarded as its faddishness.

"Nouveau is for quaffing, not savouring. You cannot possibly have just one bottle between two at lunch; you require two or, better still, three. People are therefore buying it to drink at home."

Berkmann Wine Cellars, another big importer of Nouveau, reported yesterday that it had already pre-sold its entire order of 40,000 cases of the respected Dubouff label.

To the British, the Nouveau is no more than a brief fit of fun in a grey November. To the French it is increasingly a matter of life and death. Although they expect to dispatch about 50 million bottles today, their world markets appear dire. Last year the Japanese cut their imports of the wine by 60 per cent, and if the Gatt trade negotiations fail, the United States threatens to impose a 200 per cent tariff. First on French white, but with red undoubtedly not far behind.

Last weekend, the British Cameloid Owners' and Breeders' Association debated whether a Whitley Bay butcher, Mrs Shirley Van der Laan, was within her rights in offering llama steaks to her customers.

The two poles of British attitudes to meat are represented by Mr Auberon Waugh, a meat-eater of such dedication that he was once thrown out of an Adelaide restaurant after asking for a plate of kasha, and by Linda McCartney, wife of Paul, an evangelistic vegetarian who whose most famous public

The way it isn't

CRAIG BROWN



statement to date is: "Llama have feelings too, you know." I have passed llamas chomping away in zoos without once looking my lips, but this does not mean that I would turn down a tasty

llama steak. In China I once ate a guinea pig, and when I was a child, my brother Alistair cooked a squirrel on a camp fire. It tasted nowhere as awful as you might imagine, especially with a generous dollop of tomato ketchup.

If one eats bull, why not llama? If lamb, why not cat? If quail, why not hamster? If duck, why not dove? Personally, I'd eat the lot. Indeed, a lightly grilled slice of ex-rock star might go down rather well, though even I might draw the line at a Keith Richard steakwich.

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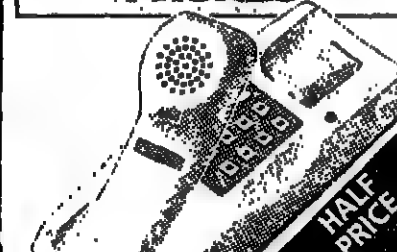
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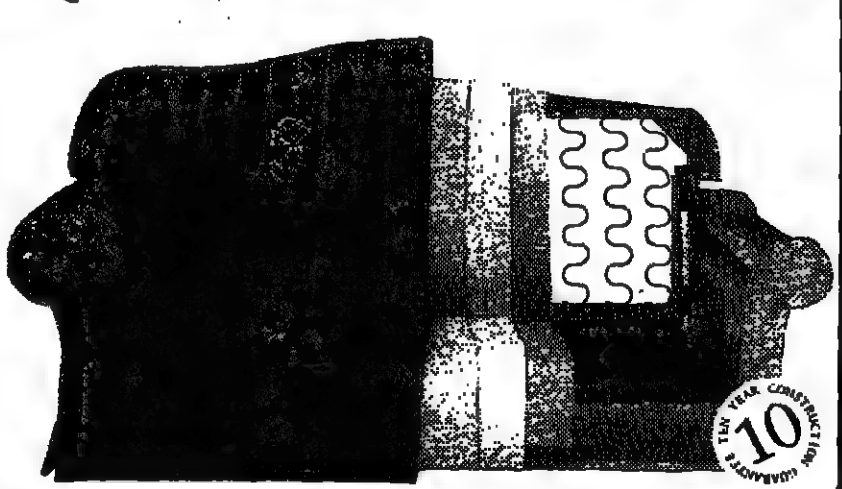
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Thatcher 'revolution' leaves few social traces

By JOHN YOUNG

THE opinions of the British on issues such as sex and marriage, class, race and defence are changing very slowly, if at all, according to the latest *Social Attitudes* survey, published today. The findings of the annual study contradict the view of Britain as a rapidly changing society.

Being only the ninth year of the survey, any direct comparison with earlier generations is impossible. The survey, though, suggests that the Thatcher revolution has had remarkably little impact. In 1991, when the latest survey was conducted, two thirds of the respondents favoured tax increases to finance higher social spending, compared with only one third in 1983.

With the Cold war ending, 28 per cent said they thought that neither the United States nor Russia were a threat to world peace, compared with only 5 per cent in 1984. But 69 per cent said Britain should keep its nuclear weapons, and 81 per cent wanted to remain in Nato.

One in three adults professes no religion, compared with fewer than one in ten in

the United States, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. However, 55 per cent believe in life after death and 45 per cent in miracles. Of those with no religious affiliation, more than a quarter nonetheless believe in God, and two in five unbelievers support daily prayers in school.

Only 19 per cent now think that pre-marital sex is always or almost always wrong, compared with 28 per cent in 1983, but more than four out of five believe that extra-marital sex is wrong, even if behaviour does not always match conviction.

The survey shows that 58 per cent of Britons disapprove of homosexuality, 8 per cent more than in 1983, but 6 per cent fewer than in 1987, when publicity about Aids began.

The survey does not support the idea that changes in the past decade have made the British greedier and less concerned with moral standards. For example, nine out of ten respondents would condemn a firm that knowingly polluted a river, seven out of ten would censure a manufac-

turer that delayed supplies of a new drug in order to keep the price high, and eight out of ten would object to a taxi firm putting up its prices during a public transport strike. Nearly a third disapproved of fiddling travel expenses, compared with only 23 per cent in 1987.

On green issues, pollution is of much greater concern than damage to the ozone layer, global warming or nuclear power. Fifty-five per cent consistently buy "environment-friendly" aerosols, and one in three households returns bottles, tins or paper for recycling. But only 13 per cent strongly support higher taxes to protect the environment.

Three out of four people believe that social class still affects opportunities. Nine in ten believe that there is racial prejudice against both Asians and blacks, and three in ten admit to being prejudiced themselves. There is evidence, however, that both class-consciousness and racial prejudice are slowly declining.

British Social Attitudes, Social and Community Planning Research (Dartmouth Publishing, £19.95)

Fortunes of war: selling destruction in the Balkans and saving its victims



DUBROVNIK
WAR
CROATIA
1991

Brochure battle: Croatian tourism officials hope this image of war-torn Dubrovnik will tempt the adventurous

Charity seeks cash for sick children

By RUTH GLIDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE church charity that has 181 Bosnian refugees stranded in Austria launched a national appeal for funds yesterday to provide medical treatment for two seriously ill children.

Alert, founded by three Leeds-based evangelical churches to bring refugees from the former Yugoslavia to Britain, said that the government had indicated that the two, who have kidney complaints, might be admitted to Britain if funds for their treatment were guaranteed.

The appeal was launched in Horsforth, Leeds, as Tony Blair MP, the shadow home secretary, criticised the "total and abject confusion" over the criteria for admitting refugees to Britain. Austria has provided temporary accommodation for the Bosnians, who were stranded on the Austrian border with Slovenia for a week after being refused entry to Britain.

Mr Blair called on Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to clarify the situation. He said: "The decision by Austria to show humanitarian sympathy for the Bosnians and grant them temporary refuge underlines the shameful nature of Mr Clarke's decision. We must also now respond more generally to the rising tide of concern about how Britain is handling the refugee crisis and what its policy is for doing so."

One of the refugees, Emma Furic, 5, has a cyst on her kidney that could be life-threatening. Another, Muhammad Dacic, 17, has a failed kidney and needs regular dialysis. Both he and Emma are orphans. One has already been offered a free operation by a local clinic.

Stephen Beesley, director of Alert, said: "We need to raise tens of thousands of pounds immediately to help these children. Kenneth Clarke has asked if we at Alert will pay for medical treatment and pay them money up front."

"I believe we can rely on the good heart of the British people in order to raise that money so these people can come to England and receive the treatment they need."

The appeal was backed by Jon Trickett, leader of Leeds City Council, the Right Rev Malcolm Menin, Bishop of Knaresborough, and Rabbi Walter Rothschild, of the Sinai synagogue, Leeds. Donations should be sent to Alert, Springfield Centre, Horsforth, Leeds.



Blair: criticised "total and abject confusion"

Croatia sets its sights on UK tourists

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than fifty Croatian officials, hoteliers and travel industry leaders are in London this week on the unlikely mission of persuading British tourists to come back to their war-ravaged country.

Led by tourism minister Nino Bulic, the delegation from Croatia is among the most high-profile at the World Travel Market at Earls Court, collaring thousands of British tour operators and travel agents trying to spot the next holiday destination to boom — not, they hope, with the sound of guns.

The Croats are not trying to disguise the fact that only a few weeks ago shells were falling on Dubrovnik. The devastation caused by the war could, they believe, attract adventurous spirits. A glossy brochure showing where every shell and bomb landed in Dubrovnik is included in the information pack being presented to travel companies.

"The British like to be adventurous," said Mr Bulic. "Next summer we believe small independent operators will be including us in their brochures and by the year after we are confident that we will be firmly back on the touristic map of Europe."

Two years ago more than 600,000 British tourists went to the former Yugoslavia — most concentrating on the coast to the north of Dubrovnik. Even during last year's turmoil foreigners — mainly from Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia — still spent three million nights in the country.

"Since then we have had a miracle and already this year we have had 10 million foreigners staying overnight," said Mr Bulic. "Now we want to spread the news that much of Croatia is perfectly safe."

Police offer hostel to persecuted Bosnians

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE Metropolitan police is providing homes for the first Bosnian refugees to arrive in Britain from Serbian concentration camps.

The force is leasing a hostel in Hammersmith, West London, which was formerly used to house police staff, to Harding Housing Association. The association in turn has sublet it to the Refugee Council for a year at low rents.

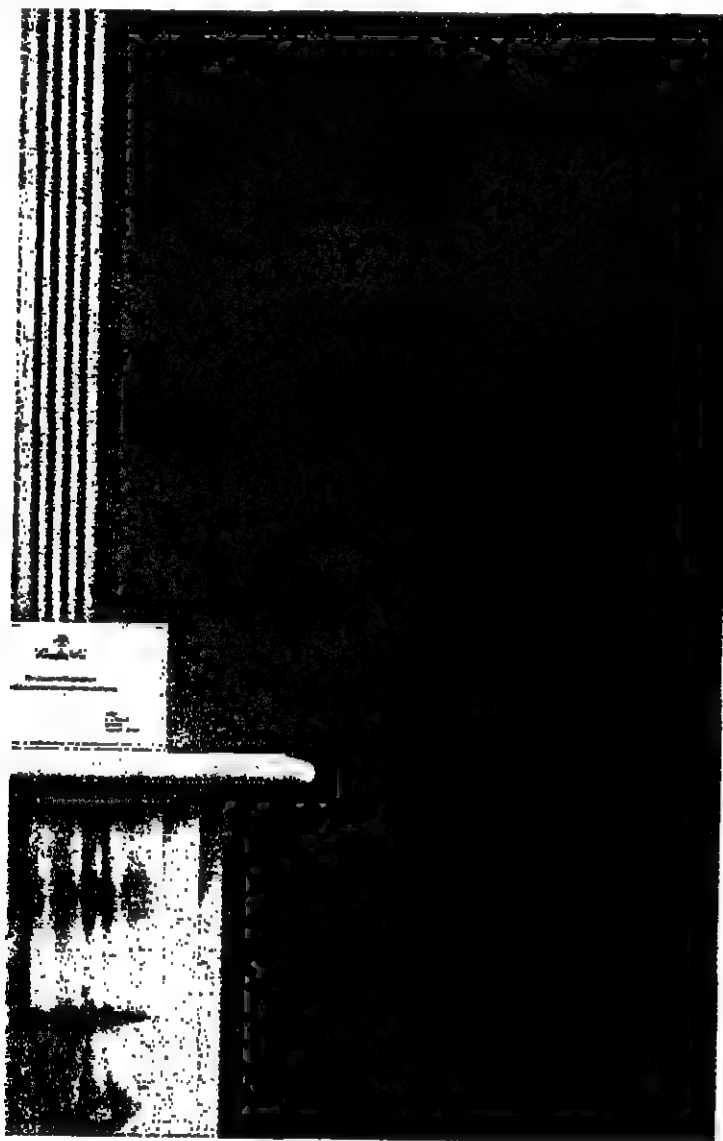
The first refugees are expected to arrive early next week. The exact location is being kept secret to protect them from harassment.

Bob Lawrence, an executive from the Empty Homes Agency, a charity dedicated to finding uses for empty property, and which helped organise the deal, said: "The Metropolitan police property services department have been very professional about this. They are putting a building to use and also achieving a great income. This is an excellent example for government as a whole."

The police building, which was originally intended for single officers, has been empty for the past two months because it is surplus to requirements. The force has already worked on several other schemes to help those who need housing in London, and has used two of its empty properties as hostels for the homeless in King's Cross and Hackney. They housed 300 people and were managed by housing associations.

Harding Housing Association had originally hoped to use the building for homeless British people, but decided to offer it to the Refugee Council instead when the council earlier this month issued a desperate plea for immediate accommodation for Bosnian refugees.

The 35 men are among the 150 refugees that the British government has agreed to let into Britain with full refugee status as part of an agreement with the United Nations. The refugees at the hostel are expected to stay for a year.



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Austria pours scorn on UK for barring war refugees

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN KLAGENFURT

LEEDS European Refugee Trust, the charitable organisation trying to bring 181 Bosnian refugees to Britain, was negotiating yesterday for visas for sick children in the group as the Austrian media accused London of "wiping its feet on Austria" by refusing them entry.

Jane Read, an official of the trust, who travelled with the group from Slovenia to Klagenfurt in Austria on Tuesday night, said she contacted the British embassy in Vienna and "there seems to be movement" on admitting three children suffering from serious kidney ailments. "I understand that the question is who will pay for the treatment," Ms Read, 36, said.

"We of England have such big hearts. These are poor children. Surely this is the most deserving case."

The refugees were separated yesterday, with 26 accommodated at a hotel in Ebendorf, 18 miles from Klagenfurt,

including six who apparently have received entry visas from the Home Office on the ground that they have close family in Britain. The remainder were staying at a youth hostel at Velden, a smart summer holiday resort.

Meanwhile, Austrian media and some officials berated Britain for what is seen as cold-hearted behaviour contrasting with Austria's traditional open-door policy. Helmut Zilk, Vienna's mayor, said: "No doubt things would have gone more easily if the Queen's corgis were involved."

The tabloid daily *Neue Kronen Zeitung* headlined its report "British government wipes its feet on Austria". The newspaper said that "175 Bosnians who nobody wants may stay with us".

The government of Franz Vranitzky, the prime minister, estimates that about 60,000 refugees from the former Yugoslavia are in Austria. This theoretically includes draft dodgers and others staying with relatives who have been working here since before the Balkan fighting began.

The arrival of the refugees has caused tensions, especially in Vienna since most of the 60,000 are in and around the capital. The government is worried by the possibility of a surge of racism.

Because of its neutral status and geographical position, Austria traditionally has been a country of sanctuary for



Vranitzky fears over a surge of racism

refugees, but as the Balkan conflict drags on officials are keen to see all European countries shouldering their share of the burden.

There is speculation that many of the group of Bosnians trying to reach Britain will be moved soon to stay in private homes until their fate is clarified. "I am positive they are glad to be out of Slovenia," Ms Read said. "But they feel very insecure."

Germany's migration battle starts

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

THE real battle over asylum and immigration in Germany starts today as party leaders meet to try to agree a change in the constitution. In the background is the fear of many Germans that neither this nor anything else will stop future waves of immigration from the former communist bloc.

Representatives of Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats and their right-wing Bavarian CSU sister party have said that changes to the asylum clause agreed by the Social Democrat opposition are insufficient. Their Liberal coalition partners, and even some centrist Christian Democrats, by contrast, have welcomed the Social Democrat decision, so a split in the ruling coalition seems possible.

The Social Democrats are also divided. Radicals want the party council to force the parliamentary deputies to stick strictly to the asylum changes agreed this week. Pragmatists in the leadership insist that they must have room to negotiate an agreement with Herr Kohl's coalition.



Hear no evil: a Serb soldier covers his ears as his unit fires a mortar at Croat positions near Orasje, north of Sarajevo. Heavy fighting is reported on several fronts in Bosnia in violation of a ceasefire signed last week

Serbs celebrate amid the ruins

FROM TIM JUDAH IN VUKOVAR

BRAVING the driving rain, Veselin Slijivancanin, a Yugoslav army colonel, roared to the crowd: "This is Yugoslavia, this is Serbia, this is Montenegro!" Sticky ex-fighters clasped each other warmly, volleys were fired over Serb graves, and politicians promised that Vukovar would be Serbian for ever.

The eastern Croatian town fell to the Yugoslav army and its Serb militia allies exactly a year ago after three months of siege. It was a victory for which thousands gave their lives and which devastated the town. Sleek Mercedes packed with VIPs purred through the ruins yesterday and Yugoslav officers surveyed their handiwork before roaring back home to Belgrade.

Vukovar now lies in a United Nations "protected area", but the blue berets were keeping a low profile yesterday. Buses carrying the families of dead soldiers cruised through town and relatives collected their newly struck "Vukovar - Year One" medals.

In the cemetery, Orthodox priests prayed while old comrades-in-arms caught up with their news. "How's your brother?" said one. "He's fine," was

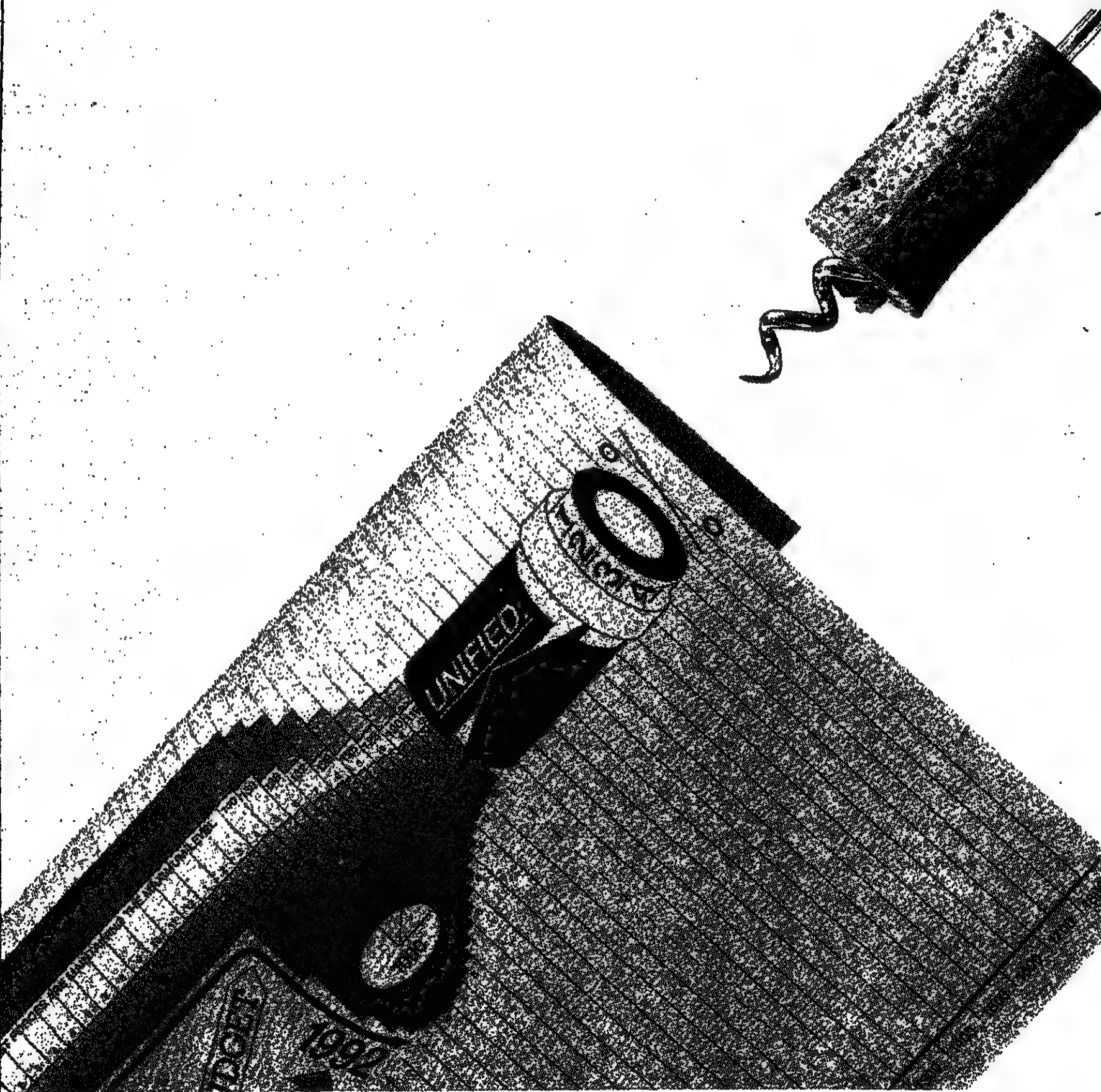
the reply. "He was cleaning in Kozarac." Near the northern Bosnian town of Prijedor, Kozarac was a Muslim town destroyed by the Serb forces in May.

A year after Vukovar fell, few houses have been rebuilt, few work, and those that manage to eke out a living either do so because they have nowhere else to go or because they are Serb refugees from elsewhere.

Away from the official celebrations there was little sense of triumph yesterday. "This is it, half a loaf," said Jelena, 70, after queuing for her daily handout. "If only my house had been left."

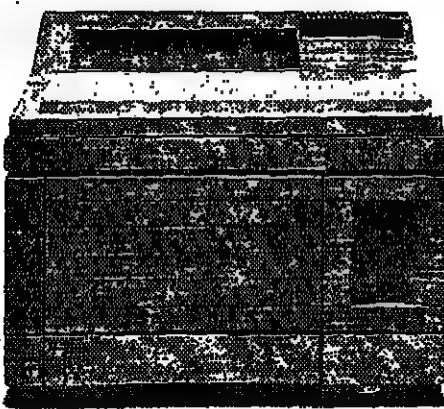
According to Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the UN special envoy, 175 patients taken from the hospital lie in a mass grave five miles from Vukovar. The grave is surrounded by barbed wire and the bodies await exhumation by UN experts investigating war crimes, but the local Serb authorities have forbidden the excavation. "You can't see it, not even for a minute," a polite Russian UN guard said yesterday. A year after the fall, 3,000 people are still unaccounted for.

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مكتبة الأمل

Mitterrand calls for national unity to defend the farmers

FROM CHARLES BREMMER
IN PARIS
AND GEORGE BROCK
IN BRUSSELS

FRANCE headed towards open conflict with its European partners last night after the Mitterrand administration denounced any new trade agreement with the United States on the current terms and called for national unity to "defend the interests of France".

With farmers threatening open rebellion and the opposition taunting the government for its "weakness" in the Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) talks, a special cabinet session issued a statement saying France wanted a fair agreement, but "the conditions for this do not currently exist".

Several hundred farmers converged on the American embassy in Paris yesterday, blocking traffic in the Place de la Concorde and nearby streets. Their disruption added to the havoc already wrought by a drivers' strike on the Metro.

Yesterday's cabinet statement fell short of saying whether France would invoke its right of veto within the Community to block a deal or demand a complete renegotiation of agricultural policy among the 12 European Community states. However, Jean-Pierre Soisson, the agriculture minister, indicated that France would not hesitate to use its veto.

Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, was more circumspect. He told parliament that

■ France opposes a Gatt deal but is resigned to it. Paris must bow to the inevitable while appearing to champion its farmers



Bérégovoy: resigned to accepting an accord

it was too early to talk of vetoes, since no agreement had been reached, but he indicated that the government was resigned to an accord, saying the assembly would be asked to endorse a declaration on it next week. He said French and European farmers would be "forced into ruin" if pure market forces were allowed to apply to agriculture.

He insisted on the French position that any Gatt accord that inflicted more cuts than the reform to the common agricultural policy was unacceptable to France. Trying to head off an inevitable onslaught from the conservative opposition, M. Bérégovoy called for "a vast movement of national unity to defend the interests of France. These, it

happens, coincide with the interests of Europe and the world economy," he said.

He urged the opposition to avoid trying to score points over a matter of national importance four months ahead of general elections in March. Jacques Toubon, a senior Gaullist, said the government had committed a grave mistake in accepting the CAP reform before reaching a Gatt accord. M. Soisson is insisting that the Community "reform the reform" to make any agreement with the United States more palatable to French farmers.

The choice for the French government is an agonising one: either a peasants' revolt or a Community crisis. President Mitterrand and his team dare not risk the fury of the one million small farmers. The grassroots "Rural Co-ordination", whose protests against the CAP reform disrupted traffic and destroyed property in dozens of towns and cities this year, has promised to "take matters into our own hands" if the government gives any further ground.

M. Mitterrand is also desperate to avoid what he sees as the grave danger for the country and Europe of conflict with its allies and a trade war with America. A French veto would be the last nail in the coffin of Maastricht and would probably lead to the

resignation of Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission.

According to most French commentators, America is to blame for the crisis, abetted by their British allies. *Le Monde* hailed what it said was the success of an American attempt to win a deal by splitting the Community. Since being confronted with a majority inside the European Commission in favour of a deal, M. Delors has slightly softened his line. Yesterday he told *The Washington Post* that the threat of punitive tariffs and a trade war soured the negotiating climate. "We can't let prices fall so brutally or let one third of our farmland become desert. There are already threats to public order from the farmers in two or three European countries."

By that reference to "one-third" of Europe's farmland, M. Delors endorses a European Commission analysis which says that the subsidy cuts foreseen by Ray MacSharry, the EC farm negotiator, would double the amount of land to be taken out of production after both internal EC reform of its farm policy and a new Gatt treaty.

M. Delors yesterday told the European parliament in Strasbourg that he believed the American threat to begin trade sanctions against EC farm exports was "illegal". He claimed the 200 per cent tariffs on \$300 million (\$197 million) worth of EC farm produce that Washington plans to introduce from December 5 break international trade rules under Gatt.



Bad tidings: Jean-Pierre Soisson, the French agriculture minister, insisting to the media yesterday that Gatt agreement on farm trade will mean more cuts

Brainwash victims win pay-out

Ottawa: Victims of brainwashing experiments in the 1950s and 1960s are to be compensated to the tune of \$52,600 each by the Canadian government (John Best writes). About 80 surviving victims are eligible and the government stressed it was not assuming legal liability but acting on compassionate grounds.

In "depatterning," massive electric shock treatments were administered to psychiatric patients — sometimes up to 30 times the normal amount used in therapy — while the patient was in a drug-induced sleep lasting over a month. The attempts to induce "correct" thinking involved the CIA and Dr Ewen Cameron in Montreal. The U.S. government has already agreed to compensation.

Rebels bombed

Monrovia: Nigerian warplanes and artillery pounded a Liberian rebel column moving towards Monrovia and military sources said one of Charles Taylor's top guerrilla officers had been badly wounded in the attack. (Reuters)

Base attacked

Frankfurt: An unidentified man attacked a German army base at Steuben Barracks at Giessen, north of Frankfurt, shooting dead one soldier and seriously wounding another before apparently killing himself. (Reuters)

Gaviria cleared

Bogotá: A Colombian Senate committee cleared President Gaviria and two key cabinet ministers of blame for the escape of the jailed cocaine baron, Pablo Escobar, in July. (Reuters)

Killer cure

Dhaka: Liquid paracetamol, a common medicine, contains a chemical that can cause renal failure, a doctor told a seminar here. The kidneys of hundreds of children in Bangladesh had been damaged. (AP)

On guard

Phnom Penh: A consignment of condoms is being sent to Cambodia for UN peacekeeping soldiers. There have been 1,251 cases of sexually transmitted diseases among UN forces. (Reuters)

Lisbon accord

Lisbon: Parliament has agreed to revise Portugal's constitution to bring it into line with EC requirements in preparation for the ratification of Maastricht.

Help sought

Khojant, Tajikistan: The Tajikistan parliament has appealed for troops from the Commonwealth of Independent States to help end six months of civil war. (AFP)

I owe ewes

Peking: Poor herders in southwest China borrow sheep, not money. A "sheep bank" borrows from state banks, buys ewes and lends them to herders, who later repay with ewes, and the interest in wool. (AP)

Moscow seeks cure to rouble hangover

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

LIKE alcoholics after a binge, Russia's monetary authorities are resolving sheepishly to improve their financial behaviour. Yet even as the Yeltsin cabinet and the Russian central bank promise never to go on another bender, new demons are threatening to reduce the economy to turmoil.

With Russia bracing for a battle between President Yeltsin and the old-guard legislature, prices are rising about as fast as they can be measured: 25 per cent a month, or 1,500 per cent a year. That is a simple consequence of a ballooning of the money supply in summer and early autumn, as the government printed banknotes to keep the harvest going and the central bank pumped credit into sick industries. The rouble has crashed, reflecting and worsening the inflationary spiral: it now changes hands at 440 per dollar, barely a quarter of its worth a year ago.

That values the minimum monthly wage — soon to be doubled to 2,250 roubles per month — at little more than £3, enough to buy two loaves of bread per day. It also values the Russian gross domestic product at barely 1 per cent of the American level, according to Peter Osag, a London economist advising Moscow. The plunging rouble has all

the wrong economic effects: it enriches old-time fat cats with privileged access to hard currency while choking new businesses. Yet the government, which somewhat lightened its fiscal stance in the past month, and the central bank, which has pledged to keep the rouble from falling below 500 per dollar this year, will be happy enough if the financial troubles get no worse.

For several reasons, they might. Political peace could be bought at next month's Congress by pouring fresh monetary liquor over an economy already suffering from cirrhosis. More serious is the danger that the last act in the Soviet Union's disintegration will be played out in the form of a brawl between the republics.

Economic nationalism is an infectious disease. Ukraine's decision to quit the rouble zone — a "patriotic" gesture which was not unwelcome for Moscow — has prompted Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president, to redouble populist appeals for a purely Russian rouble. In coming weeks, more republics may issue their own currencies in a desperate bid to ward off Russian inflation. If enough mint their own money, Russia will have to follow suit to protect itself from an inflationary wave of discarded roubles.

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Bush to brief Clinton on global problems in White House meeting

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton began his first visit to Washington since the election yesterday, an American political ritual with symbolism and bitter-sweet emotion.

The president-elect and a 40-strong entourage were meeting President Bush at the White House for the first time since an unusually ugly campaign, and the atmosphere had not been improved by a spat over Mr Clinton's rejection of official facilities for his two-day visit.

Aides suggested Mr Clinton had declined a White House offer of a military aircraft and Blair House, the government guest house, because they were unnecessarily costly. Martin Fletchier, the White House spokesman, insisted that the Clinton team had asked for the facilities and then rejected them.

"I resent them trying to portray us as offering luxury and then turning it down," he said. Mr Clinton was instead

staying at the Hay Adams, a hotel a stone's throw from the White House across Lafayette Square.

During the one-hour Oval Office meeting the two men were expected to make their peace, with the 68-year-old president sharing his private thoughts and advice on the state of the nation with a successor 22 years his junior.

Mr Clinton said before the meeting that he wanted Mr Bush's "candid assessment" of the international problems he would face at the start of his presidency. He was also likely to ask discreetly that Mr Bush, with his greater room for manoeuvre as an outgoing president, resolve certain issues before he leaves office in 62 days.

For his part, Mr Bush, still dejected by his defeat, has expressed impatience with the 11-week transition period and expressed his desire to be gone. "The interregnum is too ungenerous, too long," he

complained at a reception this week.

There are no more policy debates, visits from foreign leaders, weighty speeches or big ceremonial occasions. Aides are preoccupied with finding new jobs.

Mr Bush has barred any actions a Clinton administration would have to undo. "We all kind of wish the transition lasted two days rather than two months," said Mr Fitzwater.

Following the White House meeting, Mr Clinton was to visit one of the capital's rougher black districts to demonstrate his concern for unofficial, as well as official, Washington. He was then going to the annual meeting of the Children's Defence Fund to hear a speech by his wife, Hillary, intended to show that she plans to be an active First Lady.

Touching all bases, the Clintons were last night attending a private dinner for Washington's Democratic gitaneros given by Vernon Jordan, the prominent DC lawyer, his transition director. Also yesterday lieutenants were meeting Bush administration officials to decide a transition timetable, including how quickly the incoming team could gain access to highly sensitive budget and national security information. The State Department was releasing the results of its investigation into why department officials had scoured Mr Clinton's passport files for dirt during the election campaign.

Today, in another painful ritual, Barbara Bush returns from house-hunting in Houston, Texas, to show Hillary Clinton around the second-floor family quarters of the White House. Mr Clinton will visit Capitol Hill to renew friendships with Democrats and start wooing Republicans. He is expected to meet Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Tonight the Clintons are attending another private dinner given by Pamela Harriman, the prominent Democratic activist and hostess. The guest list was one of Washington's best-kept secrets.

Nixon due millions for Watergate tapes

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

THE damning "Watergate tapes" which brought about the downfall of Richard Nixon may prove to be his greatest financial asset after a court in Washington ruled that the former president was owed compensation.

The tapes are estimated to be worth up to \$2.5 million (£1.6 million), while the documents, running to millions of pages, will probably be auctioned for at least \$1 million. The papers and tapes were seized by the government in 1974 and held ever since.

Under the Fifth Amendment to the constitution, the government may not appropriate personal property without reasonable compensation. Last year a federal judge ruled that the material belonged to the American people, not to Mr Nixon, but that ruling was overturned unanimously by

the Court of Appeals on Tuesday. The government may appeal to the Supreme Court. The collection includes 4,000 hours of tapes, among them the notorious "smoking gun" tape in which Mr Nixon discussed the cover-up of the Watergate burglary in 1974. Facing impeachment, he resigned four days after the tape was made public.

Tuesday's ruling stated that "history, custom and usage" indicated that the former president "had a well-grounded expectation of ownership" over the tapes. Since his resignation in the wake of the Watergate scandal in August 1974, Mr Nixon has brought three separate lawsuits claiming that his constitutional rights were violated by the seizure. A law in 1978 abolished private ownership of presidential papers.



Family affair: Artalsh Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X, the radical black leader assassinated in 1965, attends the Hollywood premiere of Spike Lee's *Malcolm X*.

Orthodox Jews riot to protect burial sites in holy city

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

WHEN archaeologists discovered the remains of a Jewish burial ground on the site of a proposed new road in Jerusalem yesterday, the city's riot police braced themselves for another night of violence.

Although historians in any other country might be fascinated to uncover two burial caves more than 2,000 years old, in the world's religious capital the find usually produces far more than purely academic interest. For two days this week hundreds of riot police armed with clubs and water cannon have fought running street battles with black-hatted youths of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community after the antiquities authority took away remains from 16 graves at a site near by.

Municipal authorities insist that the removal and reburial of the bones, away from the new route in the French Hill neighbourhood, is the only practical way that the ancient city can cope with the pressures of modern traffic. However, the simple argument for improved urban planning has singularly failed to satisfy the irate Orthodox community, which makes up a strident one-third of the city's population.

According to Jewish religious law, you are not allowed to touch the graves of the deceased. They are not just stones with no religious value. They must be respected, and that is why we are fighting this abuse of power," Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, a Knesset member in the United Torah Judaism party, said. "That is why the demonstrations will continue. We are demanding that in future no remains are taken away without approval from the chief rabbi."

His warning raised fears that the city could be in for a repeat of the Tuesday night violence when 1,500 black-hatted Hasidic youths went on the rampage, burning dustbins and throwing stones and eggs at the police, who responded with a severity normally reserved for Palestinians engaged in the intifada (uprising) against Israeli rule. At least 15 youths were arrested and two policemen injured.

In one of the most disturbing incidents of the violence, suspected ultra-religious Jewish vandals daubed a swastika on the grave of Menachem Begin, the former prime minister, in retaliation for what one anonymous caller to a Tel Aviv newspaper described as "the desecration of the graves of the righteous".

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Three die in Lima bombings

FROM GABRIELA GAMONI IN LIMA

BOMBS have killed three people and injured more than 90 in Lima over the past two days, as Peru prepared for elections on Sunday to choose a new single chamber of congress that will amend the constitution.

The bombings, which are blamed on Maoist Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) guerrillas, are seen as the beginning of an offensive against the elections. The guerrillas have declared an armed strike and asked people to boycott the polls. Graffiti and pamphlets in Lima threaten that shop owners and workers will be killed if they do not strike.

The elections were called to return Peru to democratic rule after President Fujimori seized dictatorial powers in April, abolishing parliament and the judicial system with the aid of the military. The new parliament will be set up to amend the constitution, which Señor Fujimori says has benefited the Shining Path and drug traffickers.

Despite the recent offensive by security forces against the leadership of the Shining Path, which included the capture in September of Abimael Guzman, its leader, the guerrillas have shown they are still capable of causing havoc in Lima. They returned to their terror campaign a week ago, murdering Colonel Manuel Thumba, the director of the anti-terrorist police, and planting bombs outside banks and government buildings.

One of eight car bombs that exploded on Tuesday destroyed dozens of buildings in the commercial centre of the plush district of Miraflores, killing one man and seriously injuring eight others. Other explosions wrecked a station and two schools in a shanty town area of the port district of Callao, 15 miles outside Lima, killing a policeman. Several car bombs also exploded outside banks and businesses in central Lima.

The guerrillas are also said to be stopping buses and destroying voting cards.

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	£10,000 up to £24,999	4.46	3.35
	£2,500 up to £9,999	3.25	2.44
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STERLING ASSET*			
(Annual Interest)			
	£25,000 plus	6.30	4.73
	£10,000 up to £24,999	5.90	4.43
	£1,000 up to £9,999	4.80	3.60
(Monthly Interest)			
	£25,000 plus	6.14	4.61
	£10,000 up to £24,999	5.76	4.32
	£1,000 up to £9,999	4.71	3.54
TANSAYER			
(Annual Interest)			
	£10,000 plus	3.50	2.63
	£500 up to £9,999	1.00	0.75
	£1 up to £499	0.50	0.38
SAVER			
(Annual Interest)			
		0.50	0.38

OTHER ACCOUNTS
Interest rates on investment accounts no longer available and not listed are obtainable from your local branch.

* Inter-A will be paid gross to eligible non-tax payers who register with us as required by the Inland Revenue.

† Add Net of basic rate income tax (currently 25%). You may be able to claim the tax from the Inland Revenue. * Tax free returns under current legislation. † Rates include bonus (0.25% gross pa/0.12% net current). ‡ Rates apply if no withdrawals made within 12 consecutive months.



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صك: امن الاصل

Pakistan police brutality gives Bhutto propaganda victory



Sharif: future of his government in doubt

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
AND ZAHID HUSSAIN
IN ISLAMABAD

MASSIVE police action against Benazir Bhutto has given her a propaganda triumph that has put her firmly back on the political map just over two years after being sacked at the behest of the army. Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, is in deep political trouble at a time when the military is criticising him as well.

The army regards his administration as inept and corrupt — the very reasons cited for dismissing Miss Bhutto's government in August 1990.

Police had erected coils of barbed wire round Miss Bhutto's house in Islamabad, the capital, to stop her getting out. She and her supporters climbed over the barricades, only to be charged by police with long canes known as

■ Benazir Bhutto is firmly back on the Pakistan political map. Police overkill has seriously damaged the government's standing

lathis. The violence conjured up memories of Pakistan's military dictatorships. Certainly it will discredit one of the few genuinely democratic governments Pakistan has possessed.

Miss Bhutto took at least one hit from a lathi, but she was unhurt. She got away in her imported Jeep and reached the sister city of Rawalpindi, 15 miles away, by taking back lanes to dodge checkpoints. But she was spotted several times and tear-gas canisters were fired at her vehicle. One of them hit it and another went through an open window and landed inside.

A crowd of at least 40,000 awaited her in Rawalpindi. They had been tear-gassed

and charged, but refused to budge. After delivering a speech attacking the government for brutality and incompetence, Miss Bhutto was surrounded by 200 police.

She was lathi-charged again, but was not hurt. She was wearing a flack jacket because, she said, she had received death threats. Ifikhar Niazi, deputy general inspector of Punjab police, took the wheel of her Jeep and drove her away to an unknown destination.

The Pakistan government said that Miss Bhutto had not been arrested, but simply escorted to Islamabad as she tried to lead a march on the capital. The government also said it had succeeded in its

objective of preventing a bloodbath from occurring during her threatened march.

"She has not been arrested," Chaudhry Nisar Ali, a close aide to the prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, told a press conference. "She was escorted back to Islamabad." Mr Ali said that the government had taken a "clear-cut decision in advance that Bhutto was not to be touched and issued clear directives".

The minister said it was the responsibility of the government to protect the life and property of citizens and prevent casualties. "The government stands vindicated," he said. "If the opposition continues to draw on the power of the street, we will continue to

act in the same fashion... a hundred times the government will react the same way."

Miss Bhutto could not have known at the time that her mother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, aged 65, chairwoman of the Pakistan People's Party, had already been arrested 40 miles away in the Punjab town of Gujranwala, as she was leading a procession from Lahore to Islamabad.

The security forces went to remarkable lengths to stop crowds reaching Rawalpindi. The army blew up the Khola bridge across the Jhelum river to seal off Pakistani-controlled Kashmir and thus prevent Miss Bhutto's sympathisers from reaching Islamabad.

The military also set up 15ft barricades across a bridge on the main road from the North West Frontier Province. Huge deployments of police and paramilitary forces sealed off

the capital. Public buses were banned from the roads and private buses were seized.

Despite all this, the demonstrators got through. That such a massive protest could happen in Punjab, the prime minister's stronghold, raises doubts about the future of Mr Sharif and his government. Punjab is the most populous, the richest and the most politically powerful of the four provinces.

Miss Bhutto claimed yesterday that 20,000 people had been arrested. The more likely figure is around 15,000. In the North West Frontier Province alone, independent sources said that 7,000 were taken into custody. Every senior leader of Miss Bhutto's party was either arrested or went to ground to avoid arrest.

Another senior opposition leader, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, who was acting prime minister for three months after

Miss Bhutto was sacked, was also arrested. After a day of such overkill, the question now is what is going to happen to Pakistan's young democracy.

One of two things might happen: President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who dismissed Miss Bhutto as the army's urging, could do the same to Mr Sharif and call fresh elections. Or Mr Sharif might resign, leaving the governing Islamic Democratic Alliance to choose a successor. An army takeover is unlikely. Miss Bhutto timed her demonstration to exploit anger at the government's mishandling of the floods that damaged vast areas of Punjab farmland in the summer. She is also exploiting 50 per cent food price rises introduced over the past two years, severely hurting the poor.

Bhutto arrest, page 1
Leading article, page 1

Chinese signal tough fight on Hong Kong

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN put on a display of steady nerves over Hong Kong yesterday, despite deepening worries among some China experts that Peking has embarked on a course of unrelenting opposition to the changes proposed by Chris Patten, the governor.

Mr Patten spent much of yesterday in Downing Street as he and John Major assessed further sharp falls in the Hong Kong stock market and the uncompromising Chinese reaction to Mr Patten's proposals for extending democracy. They discussed what tactics should be used to calm the dispute.

Their talks came as Zhu Rongji, a Chinese deputy prime minister, ended his visit to London. Mr Zhu repeated Chinese threats to tear up the 1984 joint declaration if Mr Patten persisted with plans that China maintains are incompatible with earlier agreements between London and Peking.

The government has given strong public backing to Mr Patten, a close friend of the prime minister, and has told Mr Zhu that it does not accept Peking's accusations that his proposals contravene the basic law or any subsequent understandings.

Whitehall officials said yesterday that they were not surprised that Mr Zhu spoke out on Hong Kong, though he was officially here to discuss trade. They also said that the Chinese reactions were expected. Mr Zhu did not go beyond threats already made in Peking and went out of his way to underline China's interest in expanding trade with Britain.

Officials played down the threat by Mr Zhu to overturn the 1984 agreement. They noted that he appeared reluctant during his Chatham House speech on Monday to bring up the issue of Hong Kong and did so only after prompting by the Chinese ambassador to London. He

also refused to commit himself on the possible consequences for Sino-British trade.

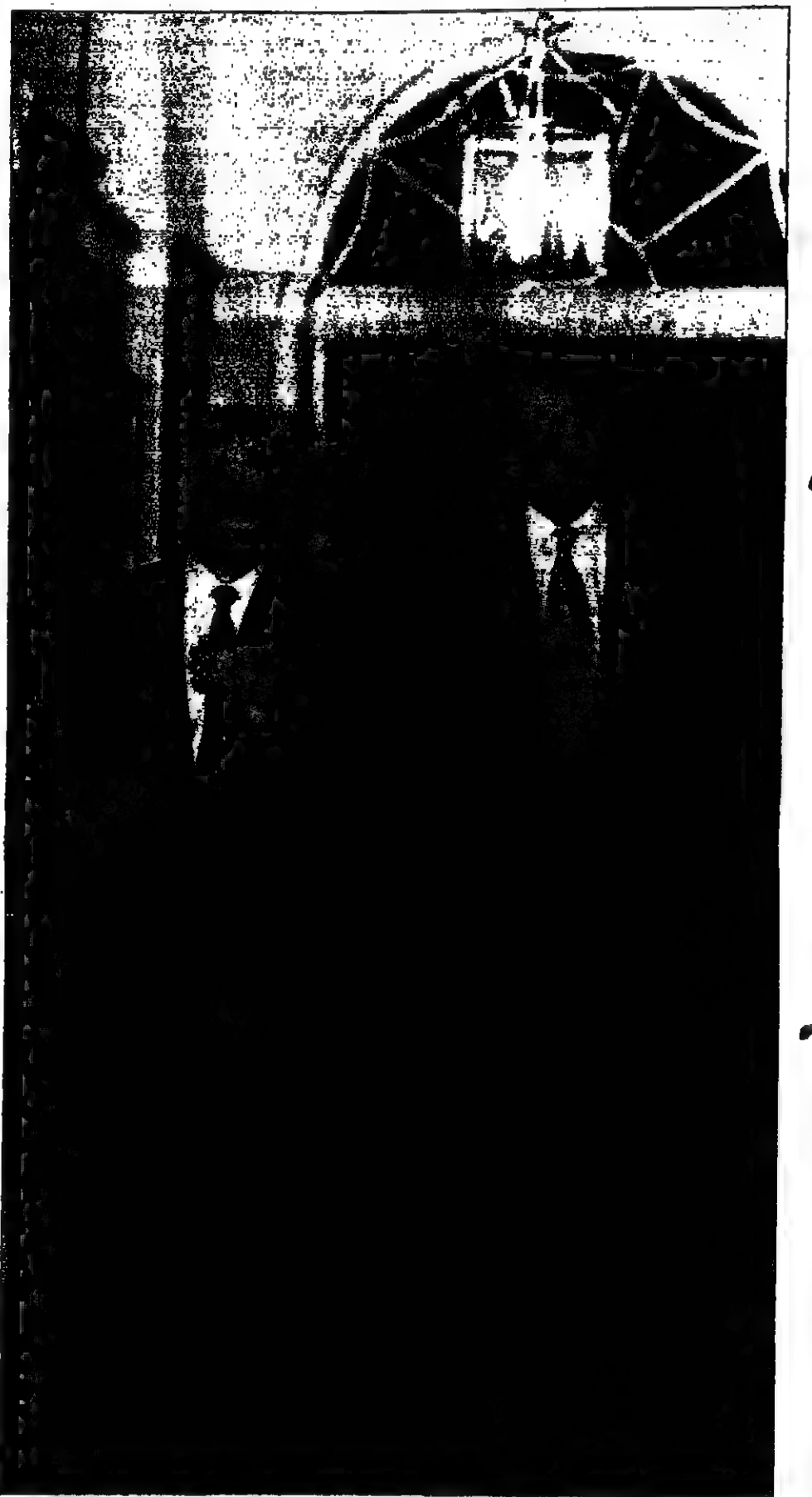
China watchers in Britain gave a warning yesterday that, despite Mr Patten's offer to consider other plans, Peking would be unlikely to back down in its opposition. They said that the Chinese leadership was taken aback and angered by the robust initiative by Mr Patten and took it as a political challenge.

Although China has tried to show that his speech was incompatible legally with past agreements, its opposition is really based on the failure to obtain Chinese consent in advance for the proposals and their plans for broadening of democracy in the colony — anathema to a leadership that is committed still to firm Communist political control despite encouraging economic liberalisation.

Neither Mr Zhu nor other leaders in Peking have pointed to specific breaches of Sino-British agreements in Mr Patten's plans. But analysts said that China saw no reason to negotiate on Mr Patten's plans and would not waive any element of the joint declaration.

"Mr Patten is a British politician used to dealing with British politicians, not tough nation-states run by Stalinist nationalists," one expert said. "He presented rational arguments which he expects to be reciprocated rationally. That is not the case."

Analysts said the Chinese side was probably pleased with Mr Zhu's visit here because it had gone smoothly, although he was able to convey Peking's displeasure. They said China was likely to intensify its propaganda campaign against the Patten plans and would put enormous pressure on influential Hong Kong residents to denounce the proposals, despite the widespread support they now command according to recent opinion polls.



Smiling through: John Major and Chris Patten cheerful yesterday despite worries about Peking's opposition to the proposed extension of democracy in Hong Kong

Singapore 'miracle worker' berates Filipinos

Lee sees danger in democracy

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

LEE Kuan Yew, Singapore's senior minister, urged Filipinos yesterday to concentrate on economics and not on politics if the Philippines wanted to join the ranks of the newly industrialised economies.

The former prime minister of Singapore, credited as the founder of the prosperous city state, told a Philippines business conference that the Philippines' US-style democracy was the wrong system of government. He said that Filipinos loved politicking too much, and lacked the will to cut down vested interests which control monopolies to the detriment of growth.

"Contrary to what American political commentators say," Mr Lee said, "I do not believe that democracy necessarily leads to development. I believe that what a country needs to develop is discipline more than democracy. The embrace of democracy leads to undisciplined and disorderly conditions, which are inimical to development."

The US-style constitution was the most difficult to operate in the world, Mr Lee said, suggesting that the Philippines needs a strong, honest government. He added: "I do

not believe Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong or Singapore could have succeeded as they have done if they had had to work under such a constitution, where 'gridlock' on every major issue is a way of life."

The Philippines, the poorest among the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) and lagging behind



east Asian "tiger" economies, has been eager for Mr Lee's advice. While the rest of Asean and east Asia has registered growth of 6 to 10 per cent for many years, the Philippines have had near-zero growth in the past two years.

quarrelsome politicians. Earlier, Mr Lee gave President Ramos the same message, that the Philippines must "get their act together" because Manila must now compete with "newly emerging free market economies, such as China and Vietnam."

Mr Lee told Filipino businessmen that restoring law and order and weeding out corruption were priorities for the country. The kidnappings of wealthy businessmen, with the connivance of the police and soldiers, had been damaging to foreign investment.

The Philippines must free its economy from monopoly and control so that industries can compete. Savings must rise, taxes be collected and the budget deficit be controlled. He said Vietnam could overtake the Philippines and the Philippines would have no one to blame, not even America, whose forces leave Subic naval base next Tuesday. "There will be no foreign military presence to proscribe the growth of the Filipino nation," he said.

Mr Lee has been touring Vietnam, China and Kazakhstan as elder statesman to advise on transition to free market economies.

Yeltsin seeks capitalist friends in Korea

FROM MICHAEL BREEN IN SEOUL

BORIS Yeltsin flew into South Korea yesterday at the start of a three-day visit aimed at opening a new chapter in relations with a former enemy. By making his first Asian trip to the anti-communist foe of the former Soviet Union, Mr Yeltsin is projecting Russia as a new capitalist partner of its eastern neighbours. He hopes to prod other states, especially Japan, into closer economic relationships.

The Asia initiative got off to a bad start in September when Mr Yeltsin cancelled a planned trip to Tokyo and Seoul because of a dispute over Japanese demands that Russia should return the Kurile Islands, seized by the Soviet Union after the second world war. The Tokyo visit has still not been rescheduled.

The police prevented about 40 protesters, relatives of victims of the South Korean airliner shot down in 1983, from demonstrating along the route near the airport. Earlier, they had waved placards outside the Russian embassy declaring "Yeltsin must compensate the victims' families" and "Yeltsin must apologise".

Mr Yeltsin is expected to make some form of apology for the missile attack which killed all 269 on board "Russian officials in his entourage may meet the victims' families. Most of the protesters believe that somehow their relatives are still alive and being held by Russia. Some say people may have bailed out of the aircraft before it hit the water. Officials in Seoul said the Russian leader had promised to return the aircraft's black box, but did not expect him to deliver it on this trip. Last month, Mr Yeltsin gave Korean officials some transcripts that were said to be from the cockpit voice recorder.

Mr Yeltsin laid a wreath at the national cemetery for those killed in the 1950-53 Korean war, a poignant symbol of new realities for older Koreans who lived through the devastation. The communist government in North Korea, which started the war, was the protégé of Stalin, the Soviet leader at that time.

President Yeltsin will meet President Roh Tae Woo today to discuss economic, political and military co-operation and sign a treaty spelling out the new friendly ties between Seoul and Moscow. South Korean officials say the leaders will also discuss North Korea's alleged nuclear weapons programme.

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates

With effect from 20 November 1992 the following rates of interest will apply:

Business Overdrafts

Band	Monthly Rate	Eqv. Annual Rate
A†	1.00%	12.00%
B	0.92%	11.04%
C	0.84%	10.08%

Business Loans

Band	Monthly Rate	Eqv. Annual Rate
Standard**	1.05%	12.60%
Preferential**	0.95%	11.40%
Small Business Loan***	1.05%	12.60% (APR 13.3%)*

Business Mortgages

Band	Monthly Rate	Eqv. Annual Rate
A	1.05%	12.60%
B and C	0.95%	11.40%

Overdrafts for Personal Customers

	Monthly Rate	APR*
Gold Service, Students, Asset Management Service and Lloyds Private Banking Visa	1.00%	12.6%
Classic, Current Account Standard,†† High Interest Cheque Account Standard	1.60%	20.9%
Current Account Preferential†† and Special,†† High Interest Cheque Account Preferential and American Express††	1.20%	15.3%
Cashflow and Budget Account	1.75%	23.1%

Loans for Personal Customers

	Monthly Rate	APR*
Personal Loan	1.50%	19.5%
Home Improvement and Secured Loan	1.20%	15.3%
Secured Loan (Educational Option)	1.00%	12.6%
Bridging Loans - Standard & Preferential	1.00%	12.6%

† Standard and A Bands have been merged.
†† This rate will also be applied by Lloyds Private Banking Limited.
* The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/credit charges/monthly fees) which may be applicable.
** Also applies to Farm Business Loans. *** Also applies to Farm Small Business Loans.

With effect from 30 November 1992 the following rates of interest will apply:

Credit Cards

	Monthly Rate	APR
Lloyds Bank Gold Card	1.20%	17.2%
Lloyds Bank Access	1.75%	24.6%

With effect from 21 December 1992 the following rate of interest will apply:

Mortgages

	Per Annum	APR
Lloyds Bank Mortgage Rate		
Home Loan Rate	8.60%	9.0%
Lloyds Bank Black Horse Mortgage Rate		

(With effect from 30 November 1992 until 20 December 1992 the rate will be 9.30% pa, 9.8% APR)



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Furore over Goldstone will not halt ANC talks

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN PRETORIA

PRESIDENT de Klerk spent much of last night with his colleagues discussing the furore surrounding Judge Richard Goldstone's revelations of a high-level military operation to destabilise the African National Congress by implicating its armed wing in various criminal activities.

Before the meeting started, the president said that he was "seriously concerned" by the allegations. In particular, the ministers discussed what their reaction should be to Judge Goldstone's request for greater resources and greater authority to investigate the armed forces and police forces, as well as the armed wings of the black liberation movements.

Gene Louw, the defence minister, issued a categorical denial of several of Judge Goldstone's statements, declaring himself in "serious dispute" with them. He insisted that it was not correct to say that he or General A.J. Liebenberg, the chief of the South African defence force, supported statements which had been made by Lieutenant General George Meiring, the chief of the army.

Roel Meyer, the former defence minister, said on television that it was apparent that members of military intelligence had disobeyed his "clear instructions" that no clandestine operations were to be undertaken to discredit political opponents. "Strong action" should be taken against these intelligence officers, he said.

Western diplomats and other observers yesterday agreed that the president's credibility had been badly damaged by the disclosures of the past week in which, as the newspaper *Business Day* pointed out, either his integrity is in tatters, "or perhaps more frighteningly, he has lost control of his

administration". The ANC has long complained of a programme of dirty tricks undertaken against it by the security forces, so there is general agreement here that the revelations are unlikely to upset the progress of negotiations towards constitutional reform.

So far the ANC has limited itself to a statement of full support for Judge Goldstone's request "for the authority and power to carry out, in full, the recommendations of the United Nations Security Council". Relations between the ANC and the government were firmly broken off after the Boipatong massacre in June, which the ANC blamed on Mr de Klerk and his lack of control of the police. In fact, negotiations continued under a different guise, and the progress was fairly rapid, even though the two sides were not officially talking.

It is not now expected that the Goldstone revelations will cause a further hiatus. A summit-level meeting between the ANC and the government is still being planned for later this month. The main problem bedevilling negotiations at present is the intransigence of Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the president of the Inkatha Freedom Party, who is still refusing to talk to the government.

Other political parties have adopted different stances. The more militant Pan Africanist Congress, for example, yesterday announced its opposition to the Goldstone commission, saying that violence was a political, not a legal, problem and that the only body capable of addressing the issues objectively was a transitional government.

The Democratic Party called on the president for firm action to "prevent any further action by the defence forces from bedevilling the negotiation process". There also appears to be a hardline attitude among the white population, which was expressed in the leader column of *The Citizen*, a Johannesburg daily which usually supports the government. Calling the notion of giving the Goldstone commission extra powers "ridiculous", the paper asked "Where in the world could a commission seize the files of an intelligence agency?" and insisted "the powers he already has should be severely curtailed".



De Klerk's credibility now badly damaged



Leading role: Sophia Loren, the actress, receiving her UN passport as goodwill ambassador to world refugees in Geneva yesterday. Her first trip is to Somalia

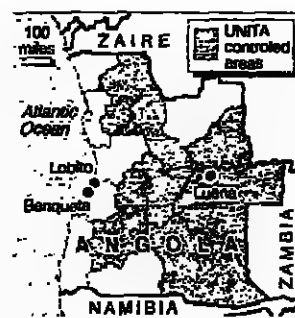
Nightly killings in Luanda bury hopes of democracy

FROM SAM KILEY IN LUANDA

SITTING in the shade of the Camama cemetery, two grave-diggers watched Angolan government riot police drive through the gates, throw seven people, including two women, out of the back of a Toyota pick-up and shoot them down on the tarmac forecourt. Four other prisoners were marched to the white wall of the cemetery, forced to dig a single grave for themselves, and butchered on the spot.

They did not dig deep. The process of decay made a leg burst from the ground where it remains pointing to the sky as a rotting tombstone marking the place where any chance of democracy started to die. In all, 16 members of Jonas Savimbi's Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) were killed in the city's biggest cemetery on November 2. Another four were killed immediately outside.

The killers, members of the government's paramilitary Emergency Police (known as Ninjas), were enthusiastic about their work. Forty spent cartridges lay in the sand six feet from where the dead were entombed in shallow graves. The frenzy of killing in



Luanda, a month after Dr Savimbi refused to accept the loss of Angola's first free elections and retreated to the heartland of his Ovimbundu tribesmen, has not ceased. The government and its supporters have launched a pogrom against the Ovimbundu (from southern Angola) and the Bakongo (from the north), Unita's traditional supporters.

In the gully that runs through the centre of this slum, an Ovimbundu father of four said that every night men from the north or south of the city are dragged from their homes, taken to the Fortaleza police station near by, and murdered.

A neighbour said he had been caught visiting a cousin and shot in the foot by policemen who accused him of being a Unita supporter. "I

was saved because, as I was being marched with the bullet in my foot to Fortaleza, my cousin (a woman), who knew some of the police, begged them to let me go and they did," he said.

Supporters of President dos Santos's Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola are safe in Luanda, an MPLA stronghold, and there have been reports of Unita killing its opponents elsewhere in the country. But diplomats in the capital said that they doubted that the scale matched the nightly massacres that have blighted Luanda since the collapse of the election process at the end of September.

"We are guessing, but the number of murdered, almost all from the Ovimbundu or Bakongo, must be about 6,000," an ambassador said.

The Luanda government still claims to be anxious to bring Unita back into negotiations and the peace process, but observers agree that for any Unita personality to return to Luanda would be suicidal — especially for Dr Savimbi, who has also threatened whites, mixed-race people and Portuguese citizens in what is now a racial and tribal showdown.

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REVISED INVESTMENT INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE FROM 19 NOVEMBER 1992

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Customers holding these accounts can still make additional deposits, with the exception of Capital Growth Bond, Premier Growth Bond and Prime Bond holders.

	% Gross	% Gross C.A.B.	Net	% Net C.A.B.
MONEYSPIRNER 90				
£30,000 or more	5.55	-	4.16	-
£25,000 - £29,999	5.10	-	3.83	-
£10,000 - £24,999	4.40	-	3.30	-
£5,000 - £9,999	4.10	-	3.08	-
£1 - £4,999	1.00	-	0.75	-
MONEYSPIRNER CLASSIC (Monthly Interest)				
£40,000 or more	6.83	7.05	5.12	5.24
£25,000 - £29,999	6.31	6.50	4.73	4.83
£10,000 - £24,999	5.65	5.80	4.34	4.32
£5,000 - £9,999	4.70	4.80	3.53	3.59
£1 - £4,999	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75
MONEYSPIRNER PLUS				
£20,000 or more	4.35	-	3.36	-
£10,000 - £19,999	3.90	-	2.93	-
£5,000 - £9,999	3.45	-	2.59	-
£500 - £4,999	3.00	-	2.25	-
£1 - £499	1.00	-	0.75	-
MONEYSPIRNER GROSS				
£10,000 or more	5.35	-	-	-
£5,000 - £9,999	5.10	-	-	-
£1 - £4,999	4.85	-	-	-
CAPITAL GROWTH BOND				
£10,000 or more	6.25	-	4.69	-
£1 - £9,999	1.00	-	0.75	-
PRIMA BOND				
£10,000 or more	6.25	-	4.69	-
£1 - £9,999	1.00	-	0.75	-
PREMIER GROWTH BOND				
£25,000 or more	3.90	-	2.93	-
£5,000 - £24,999	3.00	-	2.25	-
£1 - £4,999	1.00	-	0.75	-
LANCASTRIAN HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNT				
£25,000 or more	8.00	-	6.00	-
£10,000 - £24,999	7.90	-	5.93	-
£5,000 - £9,999	5.35	-	4.01	-
£1 - £4,999	1.35	-	1.01	-

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1. Compounded Annual Rate is the annual return on your savings if monthly interest payments are retained in the account.
2. Interest will be payable net of basic rate income tax presently 25% (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or, subject to the required repayments, gross.
Interest rates on investment accounts no longer available and not listed, are available on request.



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صك: امانت الاصل

All's almost fair in love and war

Last week's court ruling reinstating a homosexual man to naval duty is the first liberal demonstration of Clinton's presidential promises, Kate Muir reports

Petty Officer Keith Meinhold was exuberant after his first day back at work. His answering machine was completely filled with messages of congratulation and enquiry. Back in his naval uniform, he had become a piece of history — America's first openly homosexual man to keep his job in the military.

"It's my first day back since August. It was great, it was great, there was no backlash against me," said the 30-year-old officer, who is a sonar crew instructor at Moffat naval air station in California. Mr Meinhold won the case which lays down that sexual orientation should not preclude military service last week. The judge declared: "This is not a military dictatorship ... Here, the rule of law applies to the military."

Dozens of similar cases had been lost by discharged soldiers before, but suddenly there seemed to be a change in temperature, brought on by the impending change in government. Soon after the United States Navy was told to reinstate Mr Meinhold. President-elect Bill Clinton made his first concrete policy decision, and vowed to rescind the defence department's ban on homosexuals of both sexes — a promise made in his manifesto.

On Monday of this week, the navy appealed against the judgment. The appeal collapsed. "We know there have always been gays in the military," said Mr Clinton in Little Rock earlier this week. "The issue is whether they can be in the military without lying about it."

He said the change in policy would be accompanied by a strict code of conduct to deal with inappropriate sexual behaviour. "There is a great deal of difference between people doing something wrong and their status or condition in life."

For Mr Meinhold, the battle is not yet over, and he will continue to campaign until the law is changed for everyone else. "I wouldn't come flying out of the closet right now, but it looks as if there is light at the end of the tunnel."

In a telephone interview from his home in Palo Alto, Mr Meinhold said he was delighted by Mr Clinton's declaration, but that there is still a lot of fear within the military.

Mr Meinhold declared his homosexuality on television, and thinks that made him less easy to victimise. "I had a high media profile. Other people who have come out have been thrown in jail."

Because of the fear, he says he got almost no support from homosexuals still serving in the military. "They were very concerned it could affect their careers just being associated with me."

While the courts and politicians head towards liberalising the rules,

there remains strong opposition among military top brass. General Colin Powell, who is likely to stay on as the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff under President Clinton, has said that accepting homosexuals will violate privacy and esprit de corps. He told Congress: "It is difficult in a military setting where there is no privacy, where you don't get a choice of association."

Navy Commander Eugene Goumka, who is the deputy chaplain of the marines, added that "in the unique, intensely close environment of the military, homosexual conduct can threaten the lives, including the physical and psychological well-being of others."

Although threats of mass-resignations following the change are exaggerated, ordinary servicemen are disgruntled, citing worries about having showers, sharing barracks and catching Aids, even though all personnel are tested at yearly medicals to see whether they are HIV positive, and discharged if they have the illness. Of course, many servicemen were disgruntled about women in the armed forces, too, but they were not having to deal with them in their own shower rooms or barracks.

The strong streak of homophobia in many young soldiers means homosexual lobbyists such as the Human Rights Campaign Fund are predicting a rough ride for anyone trying to leave the closet. The clumsy handling of the Tailhook sexual harassment scandal, which resulted in the resignation of the navy secretary, bodes badly, according to Gregory King of the campaign fund. "The military needs to do a much better job on integration. After all, American soldiers must work with foreign troops on joint manoeuvres, many of whom are openly gay, so it's hard to work together if Americans are brainwashed into despising them."

Mr King added that the arguments being used against homosexuals now mirrored those used against the integration of blacks in 1948. The public is more open-minded than the military itself. A poll by the American magazine *Newsweek* in August showed 59 per cent supported allowing homosexuals to serve. Mr Clinton often frames his support for the policy in the negative, asking whether homosexuals should be allowed to avoid military service, and adding that it is behaviour on the job that should count for a soldier, not sexual orientation.

About 1,000 homosexual personnel are discharged from the US military each year, almost half from the navy, compared to the army, air force and marines, who expel far fewer. The government's general accounting office has estimated the gay dismissal policy costs \$27 mil-



Returning with honour: Keith Meinhold, holding his uniform, goes back to Moffat naval air station after winning his case

lion (£17.7 million) a year in wasted training, education and legal and administrative time. Sacking a homosexual fighter pilot puts paid to \$1 million worth of training.

A Pentagon report commissioned in 1989 examined the service records of veterans who had declared their homosexuality and compared them with records on a pair with heterosexuals. It added that homosexuality carried much less of a stigma than it did previously, and recommended the ban should be lifted. Nothing was done.

A 1991 report investigated homosexuality and blackmail as a security risk, and concluded "sexual orientation is unrelated to moral character or patriotism". Out of the 117 cases of espionage since 1945, only seven men were identified as homosexual, and their motives were the same as heterosexuals: "primarily money, secondly resentment". Even Dick Cheney, the defence secretary, has dismissed the security argument as

"a bit of an old chestnut", but said the policy would stay for reasons of morale and discipline.

Hundreds of homosexual men served in Vietnam. Claiming homosexuality was a traditional way of avoiding the draft, but it rarely worked, and homosexual orientation did not exempt a man from going to war. Only the commission of homosexual acts was banned.

This policy of allowing those of homosexual orientation to serve remained until 1982, when the Reagan administration clamped down and "honourably discharged" two thousand personnel in one year. But since then honourable discharges for homosexuality have decreased.

Joe Stephan was given an honourable discharge from the elite Annapolis naval academy after he had admitted to friends he was homosexual. Now 28, he has become a lawyer in Hartford, Connecticut,

instead, although he was listed in his final year at Annapolis as one of the top ten midshipmen. He is still fighting for reinstatement. Although he no longer expects to return to a military career, he wants his diploma from Annapolis as a matter of principle.

His homosexuality was discovered after he told two close friends and the rumour suddenly got around. Confronted by senior members of staff, he admitted being gay and they said they would have to discharge him. "One of the real surprises about it all was I expected to be shunned and rejected by my classmates, but instead they rallied round and were supportive."

When he was questioned by senior officers before his discharge, Mr Stephan said it was clear they were not enthusiastic about prying or getting rid of him. "Some people in the military just feel bound to do their job, even though they don't agree with the policy."

Mr Stephan has many homosexual friends still serving in the military, and there is a large homosexual underground, as well as a veterans' association. He said the military officers' academies like Annapolis have now set up a secret homosexual alumni association.

By this time next year, it is expected that such societies will no longer have to remain secret. Once the American law changes, Britain will be the only Nato country which still bans homosexuals in its military. Last month, Canada's courts declared the military's ban on homosexuals as unconstitutional, violating human rights.

In Britain, the ban was questioned last year by the House of Commons defence select committee which suggested it "causes very real distress and the loss to the services of some men and women of undoubted competence and good character". The American decision will add to the pressure for change.

Scots and the law of mercy

In Scotland, there would be no Bland case

Had Tony Bland suffered his injuries at a Scottish football ground rather than an English ground it is doubtful his family and doctors would be subjected to the public agony of today's judgment and possibly subsequent hearings at the Court of Appeal and House of Lords.

In Scotland, with a legal system separate to that of England and Wales, the need for a court case to decide whether doctors could allow him to die would simply not arise. As long as his parents gave their permission and a second medical opinion had been obtained, doctors could remove the feeding tubes which have been keeping the 22-year-old alive in Airedale Hospital since he was crushed against the crowd barrier of Hillsborough football stadium in Sheffield on April 15, 1989.

The Scottish courts would not be involved. Mr Bland could die with the dignity his parents have asked for. The doctors who discontinued the feeding would be free from prosecution.

The position in Scotland is that the Crown Office, ul-

Mr Bland could die with dignity. The doctors who discontinued the feeding would be free from prosecution

manly in charge of prosecutions in Scottish courts, has taken the view that it would not be a criminal offence to allow patients in a permanent vegetative state (PVS) to die. There has been no test case as such in Scotland, but following an approach within the last two years by lawyers acting for Scottish health boards, the Crown Office has given an assurance that there is nothing criminal in its view, in stopping a PVS patient's food supply.

They said they regarded it as acceptable, which suggests they did not see it as a criminal offence, says Dr Alexander McCall-Smith, the reader in law at Edinburgh University and a co-author of *The Law and Medical Ethics*. "The Crown Office took the view that there was no need to proceed with a non-productive treatment."

There was nothing particularly startling about the Crown Office position. Historically, the law in Scotland has tended not to interfere with medical judgment.

"The Crown Office may have taken a look at a criminal case which dealt with the causal significance of turning off a respirator where the court clearly endorsed medical judgment," Dr McCall-Smith says. "Historically, the law really did not interfere with medical judgment on abortion matters even before the 1967 act. The law is much more left to doctors to deal with: a sort of cultural tendency."

Precisely how many patients in the UK are in PVS is hard to tell as health authorities keep no figures. Estimates range from 500 to 1,500.

According to Dr Vivienne Nathanson, secretary to the British Medical Association in Scotland, the decisions on what should happen to a patient have been largely left in Scotland to the doctors.

"Essentially the Crown Office is taking the view, as I see it, that if a doctor says this is an artificial form of life support in someone with no hope of recovery, then, rather like switching the ventilator off in a brain-stem-dead patient, there is no difference in withdrawing artificial feeding in a PVS patient. That is a very practical and pragmatic view."

Despite that pragmatism, however, Dr Nathanson and Scottish doctors would still like to see some form of guidelines emerging from the Tony Bland judgment.

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON

Patients who cannot mention intimate problems die from the embarrassment

Candid talk saves lives

What do you do if you have an unmentionable pain in an unmentionable place? Do you calmly go to your doctor, sit down and explain, without blushing, that your stools are discoloured, that you have a discharge, that your testicles have swollen?

Or do you cross your legs in embarrassment and swear to all your colleagues that your nagging pain is due to an ingrowing toenail?

Thousands of people could be literally dying of embarrassment because of the taboo surrounding such subjects as bowel cancer. We all have bowels, sexual organs, discharges and odd protrusions and yet it seems that we'd rather not.

John Northover, the head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Bowel Cancer Unit, says many of the 27,000 people a year in Britain who develop bowel cancer wait six to nine months before consulting a doctor about their symptoms. By that time more than 50 per cent are beyond hope.

Mr Northover is the joint author of a new book he hopes will help to break down the taboo. The book, *Bowel Cancer - The Facts*, explains how the bowel works and when you should see a doctor. "Any change in bowel habit that persists for more than two weeks should be referred to a doctor," Mr Northover says.

In the UK bowel cancer is the second most common cancer after lung cancer so it is vital that we learn to talk about the symptoms but even Mr Northover squirms slightly at the mention of certain words.

What can be done to lower the squirm count? "Ideally, we need to screen everybody above the age of 55," Mr Northover says. "The problem is that it is difficult to get people to do the test and send it off. More than a quarter of people



we ask to collect a sample of faeces refuse point-blank."

The British are worse than their continental counterparts. "The French and Germans are very anus-orientated. They use a lot of anal suppositories," Mr Northover says.

Other diseases suffer a similar image problem. Dr Diana Moran, the deputy director at the Margaret Pyke family planning centre, calls it "the down-below syndrome". She says: "Few patients feel relaxed while talking about anything to do with their sexual organs, breasts or bowels. They are embarrassed using such terms as vulva, especially if they are seeing a male doctor."

Often her patients consult her about a different problem, such as headaches or backache, and have to have the real problem wheedled out of them. "Men find it particularly difficult to come to the fertility clinic especially if they have to bring a semen sam-

ple," Dr Moran says. "Women hate coming to the colposcopy clinic to check on an abnormal smear. The very word smear makes them feel dirty and cheap. We try to make them feel normal."

There are also the patients who would rather not know. Dr Moran says: "Some women leave a smear test because they are convinced that if they have one they will be tempting fate."

Dr Joe Jordan, a consultant gynaecologist, believes that many women put off a smear test or a breast cancer check because they worry about bothering their doctor. "Women get bleeding after intercourse or pains in their lower abdomen and just dismiss them," he says. "Our most pressing need is to educate people to recognise their symptoms."

Another leg-crosser is testicular cancer. A thousand new

cases are diagnosed every year, more than half in men under 35. Dr Trevor Roberts, a consultant at Newcastle General Hospital, says testicular cancer has nothing to do with wearing tight trousers or being rampantly promiscuous, but young men are still embarrassed to admit they might have it. The first sign is usually a painless lump, swelling or hardness in one testicle.

"Seeking early treatment not only improves the chances of a cure but less treatment will be needed to achieve that cure," Dr Roberts says. "You only have to get into the habit of feeling your testicles regularly. But I have never met a patient who has checked himself."

One of his patients was seeing a female doctor for back pain. He was 19, had recently become sexually active and did not want to tell his doctor that his testicles were aching.

"That meant it took her longer to work out that the back pain was actually being caused by testicular cancer," Dr Roberts says.

"Occasionally it still happens with breast cancer patients. I still see women who have known for ages they have a lump but are too embarrassed and too frightened to consider a mastectomy."

Dr Colin Waine, the chairman of the council of the Royal College of General Practitioners, believes the most difficult field is still the psycho-sexual field. "Minor sexual deviations and impotency are the biggest taboo subjects," he says. "The media have been very good at breaking many taboos but general practitioners must also learn to gauge their patients."

"Some patients prefer using words such as stool while others will prefer an Anglo-Saxon four-letter word."

ALICE THOMSON

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A thirst for Ecstasy

RUTHLESS rave promoters are allegedly restricting the supply of water to dancers rendered overpoweringly thirsty by the drug Ecstasy, so that the revellers may be persuaded to buy more costly drinks. At the same time, it has been reported that several would-be ravers have been sacked from the Norland Nursery Training College for experimenting with the drug.

Both ravers and emergent ravers should read the *British Medical Journal* editorial by Dr John Henry, consultant physician at Guy's, on the pharmacology of Ecstasy, a

drug first patented in 1913 as an appetite suppressant — and rejected for this purpose.

Ecstasy can cause a wide variety of psychic changes. It is a stimulant which usually causes feelings of benevolence, but can induce depression, paranoia, even hallucinations.

Physically, Ecstasy's most dangerous pharmacological effect is to destabilise the body's temperature control, so that the dancer becomes dangerously overheated and dehydrated, hence the thirst. Other physical side effects range from the bizarre — tooth-grinding — to the dangerous: hyperpyrexia (fever), hypertension, convulsions, liver disease and acute renal failure have all been reported, and are apt to be accentuated by exercise, including dancing.

Hard act to swallow

HENRY FORD encapsulated the view of the parsimonious with regard to choice when he decreed that his customers could have their cars any colour they wanted, so long as it was black. The health department is now beginning to display the Ford spirit in its approach to NHS prescribing. Although British GPs issue fewer prescriptions than their counterparts in other developed countries, much of the increased cost of prescriptions over the past few years can be related to the increasing age of the community.

Another cause for increased prescribing costs has been the emphasis rightly placed by the government on preventive medicine. But the debit side has been that the diseases, once discovered as the result of the general practitioners' diagnostic clinics, thereafter have to be treated. It would seem pointless to introduce screening to the NHS if the diseased patients are then neglected.

Whatever the reasons for the 12 per cent increase in prescribing costs over the last 12 months, the beady eye of the health secretary has recently fallen on the contraceptive pill. She wants to limit the number of types available for prescription by NHS doctors to ten, whereas the *Mims* list contains about 35. Presumably as this is a cost-cutting exercise, the chosen ten would come from the cheaper end of the spectrum.

The contraceptive pill, for all its medical and social advantages, has side effects and is sometimes unsuitable for a patient. These are problems which are



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

understood and which can be accommodated either by changing the type of pill or by opting for another form of contraception. Rather than see the introduction of measures likely to discourage the prescription of the Pill, family doctors are warning that the government should be advocating its use. If reliance on the condom alone is recommended, it may well reduce the chance of catching infection — whether HIV or the longer-established sexually transmitted diseases — but the abortion rate will rise.

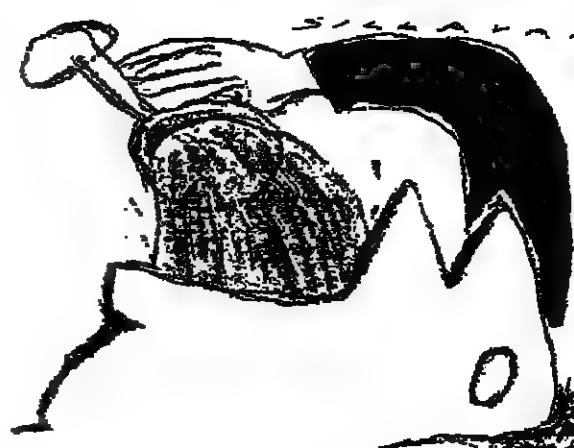
Pulse magazine reports that increases in the abortion rates of 18-year-olds can be correlated to the publicity on HIV and the advocacy of condoms as a means of preventing its spread — as well as the exaggerated scare about the incidence of cancer of the breast amongst Pill users. The very slight increase in the possibility of developing breast cancer is a problem, but one so small that it is fortunately only revealed by the detailed study of statistics, rather than by clinical observation. Even so it remains a worry, however slight.

The news, therefore, that recent experimental research has shown that gestodene, the progestogen which is used in one or two of the combined contraceptive pills, Femodene and Minulet, may have breast protective qualities was particularly welcome.

Although these are at the moment only theoretical advantages, demonstrated in the laboratory rather than in the clinic, the evidence is strong enough to persuade many doctors to recommend them. The list cost for pills including gestodene is £5.70 for three months, as opposed to under £2 for the cheapest pill. In future will doctors and patients therefore be denied this choice?

Pills with different compositions tend to have different patterns of side effects. Women therefore who do not have well-accepted contraindications to their use should not accept the assumption that the Pill just "doesn't suit them". Some pills may be less suitable for women with irregular bleeding; other formulations may, for instance, reduce the chance of weight gain or irritability. Patients and their doctors value the opportunity to select the best pill for an individual NHS patient, with the choice being determined by her physiology, and the hormone balance of the Pill, rather than by the cost.

Deprived of their market, manufacturers might well be tempted to abandon the search for perfection, and merely provide the cheapest, a pharmaceutical equivalent of the black Model T Ford.



Health and the grape

THE French minister of agriculture's plea to the public to drink more white wine — to counteract the hardship which might be caused in the vineyards by the American plan to impose swingeing import duties on white wine — has outraged some of France's health experts. Americans, who now import more than 25 per cent of the French white burgundy produced, have just given a boost to their own production of red wine. The US government has agreed, according to reports in *Mims* magazine, to a Californian wine grower's application to label 100,000 bottles of his

wine with the slogan that moderate drinking of red wine "reduces the risk of heart disease". Other vintners will certainly follow his lead.

British experts have for the past 30 years or so been chary of encouraging any drinking of alcohol, and have maintained that any cardio-protective advantage is not restricted to wine, whether red or white, but is also present in a glass of whisky, beer, or even a gin and tonic. Alcohol tends to reduce the proportion of the blood fat carrying the pernicious low density form which is in part responsible for the clogging of the coronary arteries with atheroma. It also reduces platelet stickiness, it is claimed. Platelets are the small blood cells which clump together to form clots.

High on the now and Zen

Can the mind conquer a mountain?
Will Self meets a man who knows.

Neville Shulman is a tireless worker on behalf of children's charities. As the chairman of the George Thomas Society, the section of the National Children's Home (NCH) concerned specifically with helping abused children, he has set himself the challenge of performing one adventurous sponsored undertaking every year. For 1990 this was the ascent of Mont Blanc. At 15,771 ft, the highest peak in Europe, it is a fearsome mountain that has claimed as many as 30 climbers' lives in a year. Mr Shulman raised £50,000 for the NCH. He has now written a book which explains how he, a completely inexperienced climber, managed to reach the

summit. At one point he had to spend 16 hours in an ice-hole snowed in with one of his companions. There were falls, scrapes, and Mr Shulman, who had an injured knee before he started, needed all the equilibrium provided by asen (zen practice) in order to place himself *mushin*: "mushin" meaning empty, or in a void; and "shin", spirit.

Mr Shulman placed himself in a very lonely — some might say foolhardy — situation, for he had not informed the leaders of the expedition quite what a novice he was. However, this did allow him to gain the maximum benefit afforded by *dhyana*, or meditation. During the ascent he deployed meditational techniques both to deal with pain and fatigue, and to enable him to experience the raw beauty of the mountain with a transcendent intensity. When he reached the summit, he felt he had achieved *satori*, or enlightenment. In his notebook he observes: "I feel uplifted, my heart swelling to fill my body, my *shin* lifting me higher. I am experiencing the high of sheer spiritual joy."

The book is both a piece of descriptive prose, and a manual for the application of Zen technique in the face of constant danger. "I wrote it partly in emulation of a book called *Zen in the Art of Archery*, which inspired me. But I hope there's something for everyone, some practical help, some indication of the universal nature of commitment."

As well as his charitable involvements, Mr Shulman is the chairman of the British International Theatre Institute, and a modern-art trustee for the Tate. He also works as a film and theatrical producer. "Perhaps I keep on with all this activity to prove to myself that there is something I can do well. But, then again, the essence of Zen is to push oneself to the limit."

But Mr Shulman's practice of Zen is quite atypical. He himself is a deist, and sees his religious affiliation as within the Judeo-Christian legacy of faith. This is somewhat unlike the Buddha who was meant to have responded to the question "Does God exist?", with the answer: "Maybe, maybe not. Who cares?" For Mr Shulman, Zen is a practical philosophy, a kind of super-sport training for the soul. Unlike Buddhists, with their objective of negating ego altogether, Mr Shulman looks to Zen for the strength he needs in his daily life. "It teaches you to contemplate the infinite, to remember that you're just another little particle, but that you have a responsibility to all the other little particles."

© *Zen in the Art of Mountain Climbing* is published by Element Books at £6.99. Half the royalties will go to the NCH.



On top: Neville Shulman

summit through his application of Zen philosophy.

Mr Shulman has been interested in Zen for 30 years. "I practise on and off. Sometimes I find myself very much involved and at other times it takes rather a back seat."

He undertook the Mont Blanc climb after doing little more training than a daily run with a heavy rucksack. Joining a party of eight, he set off up the mountain carrying a Zen notebook to record how his practice helped to sustain him.

For him, the attraction of climbing is similar to that of Zen itself. He compares Mallory's famous formulation of the drive to conquer Everest, "because it was there", with the "koans", or paradoxical riddles of Zen. In climbing the mountain, he was forcing himself to live in the "here and now", and to strive for the enlightenment promised to those who practise "bare attention".

The climb was perilous and

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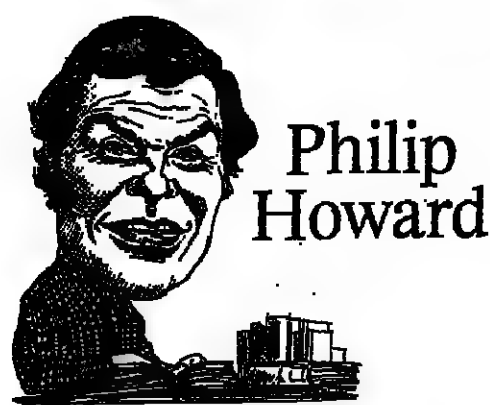
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Philip Howard

How would most wretched Tube passengers even know that there was a strike on?

In journalistic cliché, a strike of the London Underground will create shock, horror, chaos, even worse gridlock than usual, as heroic commuters struggle in late for work with travellers' tales to make Herodotus shout with envy. In practice, it will be difficult for those of us who voyage to and from work daily on the Tube to detect the difference made by an all-out strike. At least we shall be spared the unease caused by deafening but unintelligible announcements over faulty loudspeakers, with crackles to the effect that someone inaudible somewhere on the system is going to experience unusual delays to some snap-crackle-whhee destinations for improbable or indecipherable reasons. Delays on the Tube are usual. If they made their announcements only when the trains are running to time, the inarticulate buffoons would save their passengers panic, and be called on to exercise their useless loudspeakers only once a month.

It is a delusion to suppose that everything, from the grammar of the young to the morals of the royals, gets worse every day in every way. But this is true at least about the London Tube. As little as ten years ago, the first underground railway in the world was still a pleasure to travel on. True, its trains were noisier than the Paris Métro, and its station nomenclature less romantic than Babylon, and Champs Élysées and Mouton de Vernet (omitting Stalingrad). A current Parisian hit song by Pierre Perret consists of just the names of its Métro stations. But they don't Boi and Stamford Brook have a misleadingly pastoral sound. I once made the perilous journey to the end of the Piccadilly Line simply to see what Cockfosters is like, and the answer is, like the rest of the system, suburban sprawl.

For those who work in Wapping, Notting Hill is not the most convenient place to live, situated on the other side of Town. But at least the journey is the farthest you can travel on the inner zone of the Underground, so you feel you are getting your money's worth. I save up £342.67 to buy an annual season ticket, because I found I was wasting several days a year queuing to renew my weekly season.

And I have an embarrassment of alternative routes spread out before me, like a patient with varicose veins etherised upon a table: Central Line (which used to be a star route) to Holborn to stride down to Temple; or to Bank, for a longer and nastier walk with an abseil down circular stairs to Monument. When it first opened, you could take the Docklands Light Railway from Bank to Shadwell on an inner zone ticket, and see the sky. But not now that Shadwell is in zone 2, an inner rather than the bullseye.

The route without changing is the Circle Line, from Notting Hill Gate to Tower Hill. Since these stations are diametrically opposite each other, a Circle train in either direction will do. But the authorities advise their "customers" to go anti-clockwise. It is against my interests to make this public, but you do better to ignore their advice and go clockwise. Better still, take the first Circle Line in either direction, which is why you can see me at 8—am and pm—standing near the exit from the platform looking wildly at the indicators on both sides. (They are usually wrong, and flash CORRECTION!, making my head swirl like a metronome trying to keep up with the Ride of the Valkyries.)

Even if you get a rare Circle Line going anti-clockwise from Tower Hill, you are not home and dry. In its infinite wisdom, the system often converts a perfectly good Circle Line train en route into a Metropolitan one at Baker Street. Unless you hear the gibberish announcements, you are likely to wake up among the golden domes and minarets of the Goldhawk Road, with a ticket collector accusing you of fare-dodging.

There are good friends who work on the Underground, who cheer me on my way at the beginning and the end of the day. They are underpaid and demoralised, and should spend less time in their snugs and more on the platforms. Scandalously little has been spent on modernising the Tube over the past decade. The journey is cheap, and we should pay more. If there is a strike, I shall walk to work across the best parks in London and then the Embankment. This should take under two hours, which is what the Tube takes on a bad night. And I shall see the birds and the Thames.

The abortion issue will haunt the Taoiseach in next week's vote, writes Conor Cruise O'Brien

Ireland's 'Albert factor'

The Irish election has taken a sensational turn, with a sharp drop in support for Fianna Fáil. A poll published at the weekend shows support at 41 per cent, six points down on the previous Monday. That represents a loss of seven seats, nearly 10 per cent of Fianna Fáil's parliamentary strength: a sickening reverse for a party which only ten days ago was talking confidently about an overall majority. Now it looks as if it may end up in opposition, with government in the hands of a "rainbow coalition" of Fine Gael, Labour and the Progressive Democrats.

Most commentators are blaming the decline in Fianna Fáil's support on "the Albert factor". The Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, is personally unpopular: partly for having precipitated an unnecessary election, partly for unmanly conduct, as evinced by his public use, twice, of the word "crap". Certainly the Albert factor is not helping Fianna Fáil, but I do not think it can account for all of the fall in support: nearly ten points down from its pre-election rating.

I believe that Fianna Fáil's great mistake was to call the abortion referendum on the same day as the elections. The negative feelings aroused by the

abortion issue and referendum are rubbing off on Fianna Fáil. It is true that abortion is not, formally, an issue in the elections: none of the parties is talking about it and the media treat the elections and the tripartite referendum as entirely separate issues. But life doesn't work like that.

Consider the American elections. Both George Bush and Bill Clinton, on the campaign trail, avoided the abortion issue. All the same, the avoided issue had a major impact on the outcome. A Republican analyst stated that his party had been "murdered in the suburbs" by Republican women "deserting in droves", over the "pro-life" plank in the platform silently adopted by the Houston Convention.

In Ireland, the equivalent of the American "suburbs" is Greater Dublin, the area in which Fianna Fáil is in most trouble. In order to appease its rural supporters, and the Roman Catholic Church, Fianna Fáil included in the referendum a proposition covering what is called "the

substantial issue". This proposition is designed to ensure that no pregnancy shall be terminated, within the Irish jurisdiction, except where there is a direct threat to the life of the pregnant woman. Threats to the health (as distinct from the life) of the mother, including the risk of suicide, are explicitly ruled out. In Greater Dublin a great majority of women (and quite a few men as well) are going to vote against that proposition. And most of those voters are going to vote, in the simultaneous election, against the party which devised that cruel and insulting proposition: Fianna Fáil.

Nor do Fianna Fáil's abortion troubles stop there. It has lost the "pro-choice" vote, which is majoritarian in Dublin, and of growing significance in other areas. But the "pro-life" people are also displeased with the party. Two of the referendum propositions — "freedom to travel" and "freedom of information" — are inherently unpalatable to them. But even the third proposition, which so deeply offends the "pro-choice" people, does

not go far enough to satisfy the "pro-life" people. They want a total and unconditional ban on abortion.

Last week, Dr Kevin Connolly, the Archbishop of Dublin, urged a vote against all three referendum propositions: no to "freedom of travel", no to "freedom of information" and no to the "anti-abortion" proposition, because it does not go far enough in the right direction.

Paradoxically, the archbishop's intervention, especially if supported by other bishops, may have the effect of rescuing "pro-choice" people from the proposition they detest. It could yet be defeated by a combination of votes against, coming from "pro-life" people, mainly in the rural areas, and from "pro-choice" people mainly in Greater Dublin. Certainly no such triumph as the "pro-life" people won in 1983 — with a two to one majority — is available to them in their present disarray.

Committed "pro-life" people will not vote in the elections except for candidates who give

unconditional anti-abortion commitments, much stronger than the third proposition. This is awkward for Fianna Fáil. In Greater Dublin and in other areas (including some parts of Cork city) a candidate could not give such a fanatical assurance without being deserted by a far larger number of voters than would be attracted.

Even in the rural areas, anything stronger than the third proposition would probably put off more voters than it attracted. So committed "pro-life" people are likely to desert most Fianna Fáil candidates. They will vote for such acquiescent independent candidates as they can find: where none is available they will stay away.

So the abortion issue is hurting Fianna Fáil both from the "pro-choice" side and from the "pro-life" side. There is poetic justice in this, because it was Fianna Fáil that did most to bring the abortion issue into Irish politics, by throwing its weight behind the referendum on the Eighth Amendment in 1983.

Of course, "single issue" vot-

ers such as the "pro-life" and "pro-choice" people are minorities. But in Ireland, where many people feel deeply, and conflictingly, about abortion these are sizeable minorities and Fianna Fáil cannot afford to have both against it simultaneously, which is what is now happening.

As I said, hardly anyone is talking about abortion as an issue in the elections. The debate about the elections, and the debate about the referendum are proceeding quite separately, with that on the elections attracting far more media attention. But on November 25, Irish voters will be handed two sets of voting papers: one for the elections, and one for the referendum. Nothing can prevent feelings about the latter from affecting choices on the former.

Not only will the abortion issue damage Fianna Fáil in these elections but it will damage it increasingly in the future, as the "pro-choice" proportion of the vote increases ineluctably and the "pro-life" people become proportionately more resentful and hysterical. The rise in the "pro-choice" vote, and the decline of Fianna Fáil are related indices of a maturing process in Irish life.

China takes stock of capital

The Chinese thirst for freedom will soon prove irresistible, says Bernard Levin

There have been rumblings from China about the adoption of capitalism, not that they would call it by so wicked a name. But who could have imagined that things have already gone so far that China has acquired a Stock Exchange, or indeed any Stocks to Exchange?

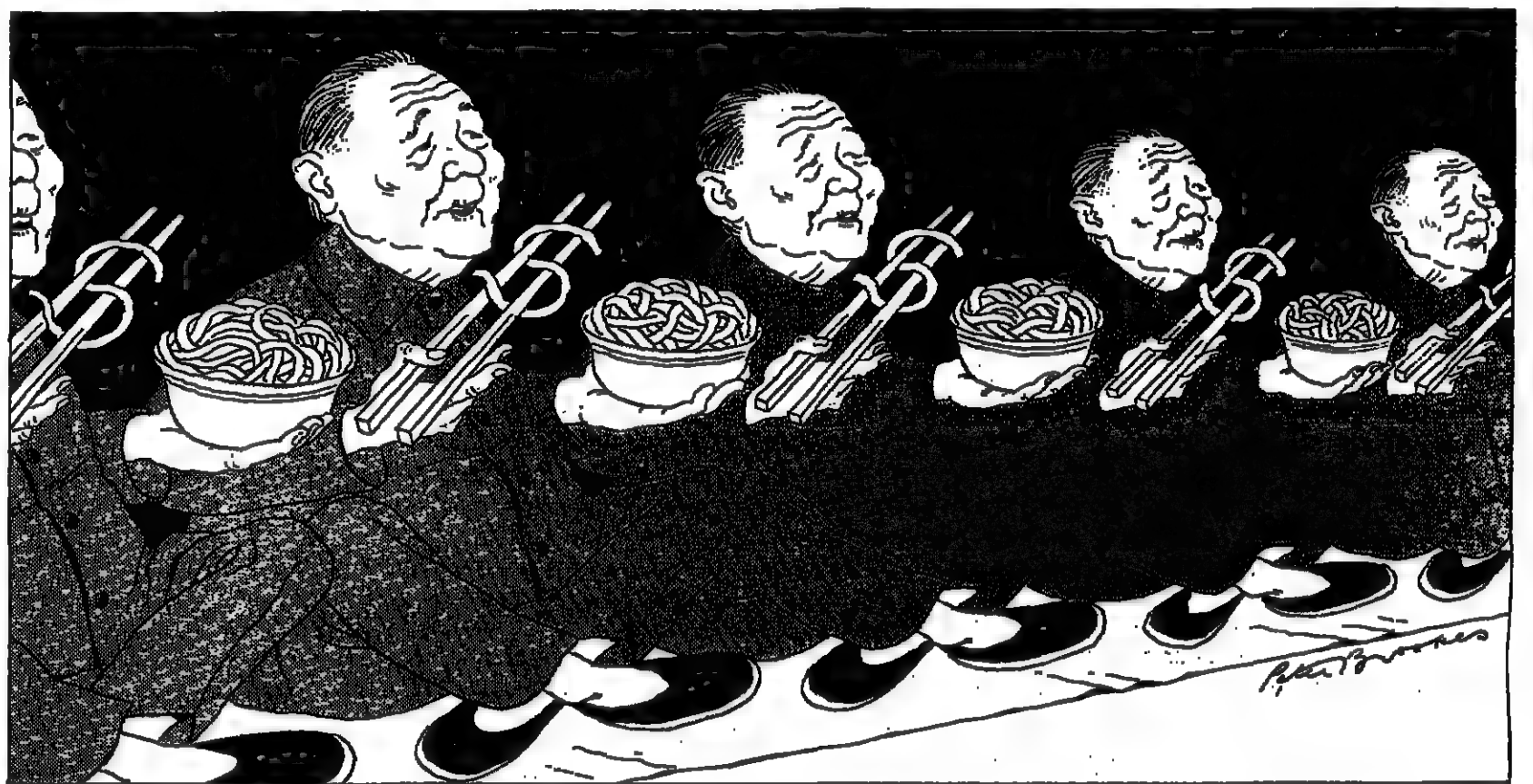
Mind you, Stock Exchanges in China are not likely to be stumbled upon round any corner, when last counted, the country sported exactly two of these evil devices. Still, evil devices or no, if China is ever to drag herself into the 15th century, let alone the 16th, a Stock Exchange she must have, and one of the two she has in Shenzhen.

Shenzhen is the capital of one of China's Special Economic Zones: roughly speaking, these areas deal with real money, real banks, real building, as opposed to the quite imaginary system under which the rest of the country lives.

Well, the Shenzhen authorities decided to put on sale a new issue of shares. What happened next was described most delightfully in *The Spectator*, by Robert Cottrell, who was there.

The system of selling and buying was very roughly the same as it is in the developed countries, at least in outline. Applications for shares were made on forms; the putative investor bought one of these (five million were on sale), which gave him a place in a ballot — at odds of ten to one — from which he might get a share warrant for the forthcoming flotation.

Then the fun started. Kick-off was to be Sunday. On the previous Friday, a colossal army of would-be investors began to



form, swelling by thousands every hour, with people from other towns travelling many miles to join the queues. No fewer than half a million people were ready to storm the issuing office at the moment the whistle blew. Long before that, though, chaos arrived. Gangsters (yes, I know there aren't supposed to be such people in pure, dedicated communist China) moved in, seizing control of the queues and selling good places at monstrous prices; the police, almost overwhelmed, laid about them with clubs and electric cattle-prods, and eventually water-cannon and armour.

Meanwhile — this is all getting more capitalistic by the minute — the police took over the queue-place racket for themselves, while the officials of the Stock Exchange and of the participating banks rolled up their sleeves and worked far into the night to seal some four-fifths of the application forms for their own use. When day dawned and the diddled hundreds of thousands learnt that there were no forms to buy or even steal, a riot ensued; by extraordinary good luck, the police killed only one rioter, confining themselves mainly to the breaking of heads.

So much for the events; hilarious as they were, it is the reflections they provoke that interest me. The business of stocks and shares is, in China, only two years old; the two Stock Exchanges were set up after the Tiananmen massacre, as one of the painful attempts to show that China was a normal nation, rather than a billion helots ruled by gangs of bandits. You would think, surely, that practically nobody in the country would know what stocks and shares were, much less how to make money from them. Well, half a million fought, literally, to get one of the application forms for a ten-to-one chance in a ballot which might lead to a greatly scaled-down allocation of shares; it would seem that word had got around.

It is not only Molière who tells us that the servant is often cleverer than his master; that mighty truth runs right through every unfree country. Nobody in the Soviet Union said aloud that it was very difficult to distinguish between Brezhnev and a halfwit, but everybody thought it, and the bravest ones took to

circulating merciless underground lampoons such as:

"Dear Comrade Brezhnev, The radio says good cheap food is available everywhere, but there is nothing to eat in my refrigerator, so what should I do?"

"Put your radio in the refrigerator."

But that is only a part of the story, and the rest of it is even more heartening. Not only are the ruled cleverer than their rulers; they know they are poor, but they also know that the system under which they live keeps them poor, and they snatch every opportunity, even the tiniest, to wrest from the mad, stifling ideology a real crumb of real betterment.

Look at the desperate condition of the former Soviet Empire when the walls came down: seventy years of communism had reduced great nations to beggary, and with one accord, when their chains were broken, they demanded the most complete capitalist system, knowing that nothing else (and perhaps not even that, for some of those economies may be too far gone

to revive) will give them at least a chance of real prosperity one day.

The only difference between the freed Eastern nations and China is that China has not yet been freed. A considerable difference, I allow. But the marvelous riot at the Shenzhen Stock Exchange makes clear that when the prison walls of China fall there will instantly be an explosion of latent strength, ability, leadership and good old-fashioned acquisitiveness.

Once again, I repeat the famous statistic: in all the Soviet Union's agriculture, the authorities allowed only three per cent for private farming, but that three per cent produced forty per cent of the country's total produce. One day that statistic will be seen to have its own equivalent in China. "Let China sleep," said Napoleon. "When she wakes, the world will be sorry." But Napoleon has been overtaken, for when China is allowed to wake the world will be amazed and heartened.

When will our sniffer moralists learn that one of mankind's deepest desires is acquisition, and learn also that acquisition is nothing to be ashamed of? A

home, and things in it, a patch of land, a place to put our feet down — this is what mankind, in a thousand different ways, wants, and should have. And the billion people of China are no different in that respect from the people of England.

Sooner or later, they will have dominion over their lives, and gods to go with it. Good luck to them, say I, and may the day come soon. There is huge comedy in the Shenzhen Stock Exchange story, and I have laughed as much as anyone. But there is a serious side, and that serious side is more important than the absurdities.

The riotous scenes in the scramble for a chance of a slice of a possibility of a little bit of money to spend or save have a meaning, and it is a dire one for the rulers of China. Because it means — as anyone not a ruler of China will know — that although the Chinese people must say in public that possessions are sinful, when the doors are closed and the curtains drawn they count their few coins and calculate how many shares they can put in for, and how long they will have to wait in the queue.

But the prospect of being swamped by immature French cider does not appear to worry British apple farmers. James Lane, whose Gospel Green cider has been acclaimed as cider of the year by the British trade, says: "Young cider is undrinkable unless you add an appalling amount of chemicals to the product. I am quite satisfied they will not be able to compete with good old British cider."

Lane and his local Euro-MP, Thomas Spencer, are now attempting to pour gallons of scrumpy down the throat of Jacques Delors to prove their point. "We have sent him a copious amount. We feel sure that when he tries it he will appreciate our cider is a cut above anything his countrymen have to offer."

It ruins the flavour of the mells.

Most likely to succeed?

SIR DAVID STEEL, who famously never got on with his fellow Alliance leader, believes that he and David Owen have at least one thing in common. Steel is convinced that he is suffering from what in the trade has become known as "Owenitis".

Like his former colleague, Steel fears he has become perceived as a man in need of a job. No sooner does some worthy post become vacant — particularly north of the border — than Steel finds himself tipped to take over.

One might have thought that in the current recession when good jobs are thin on the ground, a chap who once told his party to "prepare for government" only to find himself consigned to backbench obscurity would be flattered to be linked with a series of influential and lucrative jobs.

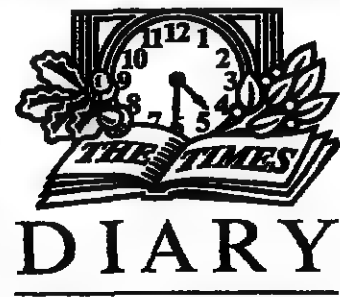
Not a bit of it. Steel is furious that he is now one of the first names to occur to the headhunters, and in particular that Scotland is awash with rumours that the former Liberal leader is about to give up politics to become principal of Edinburgh University.

The suggestion is an eminently sensible one. Sir David Smith, the

current principal, has already announced his intention to stand down. Steel is one of the university's most distinguished graduates and served as rector from 1982 to 1985.

Steel comments: "A few days ago I happened to bump into a friend who is a member of the University Court. 'I bet', I said to him, 'that I will find my name being tipped for this post.' Within hours, Scottish academia was talking of little else. 'I intend to stay happily as MP for Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale,' insists Steel. Yet the rumours persist — and there are those who believe that the gentleman doth protest too much. Ambition, as Edmund Burke once noted, can creep as well as soar.

● Fear and loathing at Bush House. BBC World Service executives — anxious about who will succeed John Tusa as their boss — yesterday received their first visit from John Birt. Since he was appointed successor-in-waiting to Michael Checkland 18 months ago, the World Service has been a no-go area for Birt, effectively barred from the building by Tusa, who also had designs on the job.



But with Tusa's own tenure about to end, Birt yesterday decided it was time to breeze through the building. Tusa, to his credit, was a gracious host. As for Birt, he was as sinister as an old-fashioned Soviet leader, according to one senior Bush House man. "He smiled at everyone and said nothing."

Closed book

SO paranoid is Alan Clark over the police investigations into Marjorie Churchill that the former trade and defence minister, never a shrinking violet, is proving reluctant even to promote his political diaries, publication rights to which have just been sold for £150,000.

The diaries will cover the period 1983 to 1991, and include the contentious period covering the alleged breach of guidelines on the

sale of arms to Iraq. Yesterday the former minister was cagey about his progress on the work. "There is quite a lot I would like to say, but I have decided not to speak to the press on any subject," said Clark. "I am following the precept recommended to Professor Laski."

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, which paid such a large sum in the hope of troublemaking indiscretions, will not be pleased by Clark's new-found reserve. For those who do not recall it, Attlee's advice to Laski was that a period of silence would not be unwelcome.

Trouble in store

ONLY months after Ivana Trump walked into Harrods and cut the ribbon to open the new Waterstone's bookshop in the store, the two retailers have agreed to part company.

At the opening, compliments flowed as freely as the champagne. Tim Waterstone praised Harrods, and on behalf of the store Michael Cole sang the praises of Waterstone's, while Ivana Trump declared everybody was "absolutely wonderful".

So how did a marriage made at the cash registers turn sour? W.H. Smith, Waterstone's owner, will say only that it has given Harrods notice of intention to quit by March.



THE chattering classes have recently been less concerned with Tom Stoppard's work than with his love life: he has been linked with Felicity Kendal (centre). Now the pair are to link up in his new play, *Ararat*, at the National Theatre next year under the direction of Trevor Nunn (right). Kendal will be the female lead in what will be Nunn's first experience of directing at the NT and Stoppard's first play since 1986.

Cole says: "There's no blood on the lovely red Harrods carpet. We'll have a good Christmas whatever." But rumours persist in the trade of constant disputes over marketing, advertising, window displays and delivery of books. It is also said that the venture is losing money. The recession, it seems, has reached even Knightsbridge.

Golden, not delicious

As Britain's restaurants brace themselves today for the invasion of Beaujolais Nouveau, a new French tipple is also on the way across the Channel — new cider. Already the roads of Normandy are plastered with billboards reading "Le cidre nouveau est arrivé".





THE GREAT SCHOOL REPORT

John Patten's revolution must be made permanent

From today parents, taxpayers, teachers and pupils will have information that was previously available only to bureaucrats. The publication of examination rankings for 4,600 secondary schools is a milestone in education policy. All those who care about schooling will now be able to choose more confidently. Without information there can be no marketplace, and without at least some elements of a marketplace there can be no efficient allocation of resources.

The newly published tables of the English GCSE and A-level results are not perfect. They pose questions as well as answering them. But they hold the first seeds of a revolution. The only way forward now is more information, more sophisticated information and that information's better use. There must be no turning back.

Like all new exercises of this kind, including *The Times* universities guide, the new rankings have been scorned by those whose performance they seek to measure. Teaching unions and local authority officials queued up yesterday to point out that league tables based on raw examination grades paint only a partial picture of educational success and failure, neglecting the extra-curricular and pastoral achievements of schools and the differing social circumstances in which they operate.

While the tables do not reflect the achievement of the pupil who becomes a brilliant cellist, or who conquers a deprived background through industry in the classroom, it is idle to deny the central role that examination results play in parents' decision-making. The government's campaign to raise standards means that pupils will soon be graded in national curriculum tests and public examinations at 7, 11, 14, 16 and, if they stay on, 18. Not to publish these results in digestible form would be a travesty of the curriculum reform's spirit and letter.

The absurd claim that no information at

all is preferable to a limited selection of key indicators is the cry of a producer group which senses that power is being handed to the consumer. After a period in which many Conservative supporters have despaired of why they should support their government, this educational reform is a real reason.

Still, the torrent of information released yesterday must be approached with care. Each local table will be an indispensable guide to parents weighing up the merits of schools in a given area. The rankings are less useful as a basis for generalities. It is not very revealing that grammar schools remain pre-eminent and that Richmond and Harrow are more fertile areas for youthful scholarship than Tower Hamlets. The tables are an ordnance survey map of English schools rather than a report on the educational state of the nation, and must be treated as such.

Mr Patten has already promised to add truancy rates and the destination of school-leavers to the list. The omission of training qualifications from this year's tables did little to support his claim that he hopes to break down the great divide between academic and vocational subjects, and should not be repeated. Future rankings should also record the results of all candidates who sit examinations regardless of age. This year's pilot run was limited to the GCSEs of 15-year-olds and the A levels taken by 18-year-olds, seriously disadvantaging schools which enter their pupils earlier or later.

In addition, the education department should consider some form of "value-added" measurement alongside the raw results to reflect the contribution of each school to its pupils' progress and perhaps take account of social deprivation. A tricky list of tasks, no doubt, but a worthy one for a government committed to opening up the closed shop of education. Having launched his long-awaited "information revolution", Mr Patten must ensure that it is permanent.

POPULISM IN PAKISTAN

Bhutto deserves no support in her undemocratic bid for power

With her arrest last night and subsequent deportation from Islamabad to Karachi, Benazir Bhutto bids fair to regain her martyr's crown. She earned it during her imprisonment and exile between 1977 and 1986, and largely forfeited it through the corruption and incompetence which disfigured her 1986-88 government. This time, she deliberately courted arrest and the result could be perilous for Pakistan.

As part of a strategy of sweeping back to power on a tide of popular unrest, she has been barnstorming around Pakistan holding mass rallies, drumming up support for a "long march" to the national parliament to bring down the elected government of Nawaz Sharif. Miss Bhutto has always described President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's use of his wide constitutional powers to dismiss her government in August 1988 as a constitutional coup. But two months later, she was decisively defeated in general elections. By setting out, with yesterday's march, to use mass protest to compel the formation of a "national consensus government" pending fresh general elections, she has shown in turn that she ranks the pursuit of power higher than the ballot box.

She and her supporters in the People's Democratic Alliance have deliberately set out to exploit the misery of millions uprooted by a national catastrophe, last September's devastating floods in Punjab, to foment a populist revolt. No Pakistani government would have reacted passively to this planned trial of strength. Memories are sharp of the prolonged street frenzy which, in 1977, prompted the army to topple her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — himself an astute exponent of populist demagoguery.

Miss Bhutto went ahead after the march

had been banned and the capital sealed off. But the ban was, on balance, ill-advised; and by their brutal treatment of those who defied it, Pakistan's police and security forces have handed Miss Bhutto a propaganda victory. An estimated 15,000 of her supporters across the country have been arrested.

The future of Mr Sharif's government, one of the few genuinely democratic in Pakistan's history, must now be in grave doubt. This is not good news for Pakistanis. Some of the same accusations — of authoritarianism, inefficiency and institutionalised corruption — that were levelled against Miss Bhutto in 1988 are again current. The opposition press is again being harassed and the army, bellwether of Pakistan's always fragile political health, is critical of the government's continued use of it in Sindh.

But for all his government's faults, Mr Sharif remains a reformer and moderniser of the kind Pakistan has long needed. He has deregulated the economy and dismantled the system of government permits for investment and exports which fed Pakistan's endemic corruption. He has tried, admittedly with decreasing courage, to distance himself from Islamic fundamentalists. The army still consumes an unconscionable third of the country's budget; but within this constraint he has launched a programme to improve literacy and the shameful living conditions of the poor.

The decision to ban her from the capital for 30 days provides a breathing space, which the government needs to use well to restore its battered image. Senior police officers should be disciplined. The army, which has ruled Pakistan for half its history, should stay in barracks. But fresh elections would not be a solution for Pakistan.

THE POWER OF SPEECH

Note to MPs: the country loves a good debate

As the paving debate on the Maastricht treaty showed convincingly this month, the standard of argument in the House of Commons has declined dismally over the past 30 years. Not only was there no great speech, but with the whips in control and the opponents of Maastricht unwilling to speak, there was no serious debate at all.

By contrast, the sixth debate organised by *The Times* and *Dillons* last night, at which Lord Lawson and Tom Peters argued about Europe before a paying audience of more than 600, was a cheering occasion. It demonstrated that even in an era of mediocrity in the Commons and crass swapping of angry party platitudes on radio and television, there is still a hunger beyond Westminster for serious rhetoric on serious issues.

Audiences of up to 1,000 were attracted to the five previous debates. They heard Francis Fukuyama postulate the end of history and the Nobel prizewinner Gerald Edelman debate abstract theories of the brain with Oliver Sacks. All the speakers were bombarded with searching questions. The audience for good debate clearly exists. If politicians could only raise their oratorical game.

Every generation, of course, believes that standards of oratory and debate are declining. Even in 1914 the great Lloyd George, who often attracted audiences of 20,000 on the stump, believed that oratory had given way to "talk". Yet the recent examples of Michael Heseltine, Baroness Thatcher or Lord Howe (whose resignation speech was a

true destroyer) or, on the left, Neil Kinnock and Tony Benn, show that the great platform or Commons speech is not extinct.

It is debate that has been neglected since the Sixties, when the Queen's English was regarded as naïf and the idea of debating societies seemed old-fashioned and pompous to students on the barricades. The decline of churchgoing made the poetry of the Bible and Cranmer's prayer book into mysteries. The opponents of "elitism" who mocked Shakespeare and the prophets of "relevance" who sneered at the classics destroyed the age-old sources of inspiration for the apprentice orator or debater.

Schools and universities, however, are now noticing the same revival. In January, more than 500 students will attend the World Universities Debating Championship in Oxford. The number of school debating societies is growing. This new interest is a belated acknowledgement of the growing power of speech in everyday life.

Who now, for instance, writes letters when he can use the telephone? A command of speech brings self-confidence and thus self-empowerment. Citizens will benefit from the citizen's charter only if they can put their case to British Gas coherently and powerfully. Against the example set by so much of the British press, debating teaches that there are two sides to most arguments. It teaches people to think on their feet. It teaches respect for the opposing point of view. This house believes that debate should flourish.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Case for navy keeping Portland base

From Rear Admiral J. P. W. Middleton

Sir, Mr Malcolm Rifkind's intention to close Portland naval base (report, November 13) is understandable, but wrong. Portland is a world-class centre of excellence in sea training, that immensely difficult art of turning sailors and their ships into a single sophisticated fighting machine. It is greatly admired and used by our continental allies.

Its removal to Plymouth would distance this facility from its sea exercise areas, its adjacent aviation support and from immediate access to the open sea because of the projected site up-river, and is unlikely to improve the quality of the product.

To get out of Portland (in exchange for pretty paltry savings) is to threaten the quality of our military capability, to reduce our influence in European maritime affairs, to deny ourselves the only satisfactory mousing base for amphibious operations on the Channel coast, to deprive the Special Boat Service of a secure centre for their training, and to abandon a sheltered harbour which is a national strategic asset: fairly massive effects from a decision which is peripheral to the main thrust of naval-base rationalisation.

There are actually few choices in the development of a logical model for future basing of the fleet. It is clear that the fleet will continue to shrink in size and that the current arrangements must be reduced to suit if the front line is not to be emasculated. This argues for three naval bases, one each for major surface ships (frigates and larger), submarines and minor war vessels, at Portsmouth, Faslane, on the Clyde, and Rosyth.

Portsmouth will no longer carry out ship refits, but will provide shorter-term maintenance for the ships based there. A decision has yet to be made about the dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth, still owned by the Ministry of Defence but operated by civilian companies.

However, the dockyard decision is quite separate from the basing strategy. In that arena Devonport (dear old Guzz to generations of sailors) no longer fits into the basing plan and must be surrendered. Dismantling the dockyard from the naval base will not be easy, but has already been accomplished in financial terms by

the creation of the civilian operating company.

Moving the sea-training facility to Devonport is a thoroughly perverse proposal. Not only does it diminish the valuable features of Portland, but to establish a new facility in a port which will shortly be reduced sounds dangerously close to sawing off the branch on which one is sitting.

Portland offers a centre of excellence which can benefit the whole of the European maritime community. To retain it will do a service to the navy, the country and the Continent.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MIDDLETON
(Chief Staff Officer (Support) to Commander-in-Chief, Fleet, 1991-2),
Greenhill House, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, Wiltshire,
November 18.

From Captain J. F. S. Trinder

Sir, I write as a former Commander Sea Training of the naval base at Portland who has visited similar facilities in other countries, including the United States.

This base, with its associated helicopter air station, provides the finest basic sea training for warships and their crews in the world. The move of this training facility to Plymouth would not only be costly but the training effectiveness and intensity for ships working up would diminish considerably for various geographic reasons which could not be avoided.

It is right that the taxpayer, who has just spent millions of pounds providing modern new accommodation based on Portland's long-term future, should now pay to establish something similar elsewhere, in order to produce lesser efficiency in units of the fleet?

There is a strategic angle too: how many naval eyes should be in one basket (Plymouth)? With Portsmouth reduced in capacity, Portland gone and Rosyth in serious threat of closure our surface fleet would be largely dependent on one major refitting base.

In terms of cost, training efficiency, strategic vulnerability and local community economy, closure is the wrong option.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TRINDER,
5 Churton Place, SW1.

Strain in depleted army

From Mr M. B. H. Ashmore

Sir, Forecasting intervals between operational tours for infantry battalions is a mathematical problem. As Lord Bramall points out (letter, November 14) we now have a figure of 15 months. By 1995, with the army reduced to 38 battalions, the figure is planned to rise to 24 months.

Plainly this can only be achieved by significantly reducing commitments, such as withdrawal of two battalions from Northern Ireland, ending deployment in Bosnia with no other UN tasks arising, and further employment of non-infantry units on infantry tasks. To assume that these reductions will happen is dangerous.

In the preamble to a signal sent recently to all army units, the defence secretary has confirmed his commitment to the rundown of the army to 104,000 trained personnel. However he has also said, on previous occasions, that he is prepared to review the situation should the need arise. Surely that time has now come.

What is at stake here is the efficiency and morale of the army and its ability to carry out its tasks, in support of our foreign policy, into the next century. This is of far greater importance than the quest for marginal savings in the short term at the behest of the Treasury.

Yours faithfully,

M. B. H. ASHMORE,
Cocklaw, Elrickle,
Biggar, Lanarkshire.

Psychotherapy case

From Mr C. Schwartz

Sir, Anna Selby's article, "Cruelly coached in kindness" (Saturday Review, November 7), was written without seeking our view. We wish now to point out that the therapy in question took place before the therapist was a trainee of this group and we had no knowledge of the incidents referred to when we accepted him for training.

When we later became aware of the incidents we decided, in March 1992, that the therapist should not proceed further in his training before September 1993 and after further investigation by his review committee. It was for reasons of confidentiality that we felt it inappropriate to reveal these facts to anyone outside our group.

Yours sincerely,
C. SCHWARTZ (Convener),
Independent Group of
Analytical Psychologists,
PO Box 1175, London W3 6DS,
November 11.

From the President of the British Psychological Society

Sir, Contrary to Anna Selby's assertion, psychologists (as opposed to psychiatrists) do not come under the aegis of the General Medical Council. Psychology is an independent profession, with independent training and qualifications.

The British Psychological Society

has a disciplinary procedure which includes a formal complaints and investigation system, although of course this relates only to our own members.

It publishes an annual Register of Chartered Psychologists, many of whom will be fully trained therapists.

Yours faithfully,
ED MILLER, President,
The British Psychological Society,
St Andrews House,
48 Princess Road East, Leicester,
November 12.

From Mr R. K. Brian

Sir, Whether a statutory register of psychotherapists would help the public, as presumed by Anna Selby, or whether it would merely provide a cruel illusion of protection of the public, as is already the case in certain regulated professions, is debatable.

For several decades, the voluntary Psychotherapy Register has admitted only trained psychotherapists and has required that they maintain adequate standards of competence and ethics.

Yours faithfully,
R. K. BRIAN (Principal),
The Psychotherapy Centre,
1 Wythburn Place W1,
November 11.

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Average families and basic incomes

From Mrs Anna Lines

Sir, A family of two children and two adults, one of whom goes out to work, requires an income of £21,000 a year to maintain a "basic" standard of living, according to a report by the Family Budget Unit at York University for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (details, November 11). The report also points out that such a family with two older children needs to spend 57 per cent more than a childless couple to maintain the same standard of living.

Child-rearing clearly imposes costs that are not borne by those without this responsibility, yet the only difference in fiscal treatment between a married man with a dependent wife and children and his childless, single colleague is that the first is able to claim the married couple's allowance (which appears to be withering on the vine). Child benefit covers less than a fifth of the cost of raising children.

In its green paper, *The Reform of Personal Taxation*, published in 1986, the government argued that transferable personal allowances between spouses would boost incomes of families with only one earner and would help, in particular, the lower paid.

Yet, inexplicably, it failed to implement this reform when introducing independent taxation of husband and wife. Allowing the non-earning spouse to transfer her/his personal allowance to the earning partner would increase the net income of the

family paying tax at the basic rate by £16.50 a week, almost equivalent to a doubling of the child benefit payable to a two-child family.

Although it is difficult to argue in favour of increasing anyone's income at a time of recession, we should not lose sight of the fact that the key to future success lies in the way in which we look after our young.

Yours faithfully,
ANNA LINES
(Committee member),
Full Time Mothers,
PO Box 186, London SW3 5RF,
November 12.

From Mr William Deller

Sir, A family of two children and two adults requires an income of £21,000 a year to support a basic standard of living, compared to the average income of about £15,000. It is interesting to relate these figures to my estimate of the same family's requirement to pay for government expenditure — about £16,000 (assuming total expenditure of £244 billion and a population of 60 million).

Is anyone carrying out research into the implications of these figures — that a family of four, with an average income of £15,000, actually needs £21,000, and also needs to earn £16,000 to pay for government expenditure before all else?

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM DELLER,
42 Surley Row, Caversham,
Reading, Berkshire.

Child support

From Mr Bruce Lidington

Sir, The Families Need Fathers association shares many of Gingerbread's concerns on the Child Support Act 1991 as expressed by Ms Mary Honeyball (letter, November 5). But her letter only glanced upon a fundamental injustice within this Act.

As the Act progressed through both Houses of Parliament it was proclaimed in the media as "making errant fathers pay". Under its present formulae, however, a father with a proven history of violence who abandons his children will have his maintenance dues met in full by the state.

By contrast, a committed father who seeks to preserve a decent relationship with his children despite divorce or separation will be required to pay twice over: once in direct payment to the state and again in the costs of maintaining constructive contact with his children.

If the father has the misfortune to be unemployed he will also be pushed below the poverty line as a proportionate maintenance deduction will be made from his already subsistence level of income support.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE LIDINGTON
(Vice-Chairman),
Families Need Fathers,
BM Families,
London WC1N 3XX.

From Mr Martin Symonds

Sir, The provisions of section 27 of the Child Support Act 1991 enable the child support officer, when consid-

ering whether to make a maintenance assessment, to apply to the court for a declaration as to whether or not the alleged parent is one of the child's parents if that is denied by the putative father.

I think it would be most unlikely, having regard to the costs involved, that the child support unit would as part of that application request DNA tests, as Ms Honeyball suggests.

She also claims that the Act "will not help the 75 per cent of lone parents who live on income support, as any maintenance collected will be deducted from their benefit".

Maintenance collected using the provisions of the Act will not be deducted from their benefit. Indeed, provisions are being prepared to change the regulations to ensure that those people in receipt of maintenance will be able to keep a proportion without it affecting their benefit.

The Act does not change the existing powers of the court to make an order in favour of the Department of Social Security under the Social Administration Act 1992. Any orders made thereunder are not deducted from the income support being provided to the claimant.

I am opposed to the Child Support Act because I fail to follow the logic of supposing that it will be cheaper to transfer the cost of collecting maintenance from the courts to the Child Support Agency, which is simply another arm of the Civil Service.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN SYMONDS,
Gard & Co. (solicitors),
Brenton Chambers,
4 Bretonside, Plymouth, Devon.

London hospital beds

From Dr D. J. M. Wright

Sir, I hope that the government will pause for considerable thought before deciding whether, and if so how to implement the recommendations in the Tomlinson report (details, October 24) to close or merge the teaching hospitals and postgraduate institutions targeted.

Tomlinson concludes that in 1990-91 1,845 beds were provided by the special health authority hospitals in inner London and 9,457 by the "non-special" authority hospitals, totalling 11,302 beds.

Tomlinson's figure for the population of inner London is 2.5 million, a ratio of 45.2 beds per 10,000 population. If one allows for about 1.3 million commuters (Tomlinson's figure) who come into inner London each weekday, but not for the eight million annual visitors to the capital, the ratio can be computed at something like 29.7 beds for every 10,000 people.

The position in Europe and the United States in 1987 shows how under-provided in terms of hospital beds the UK was. Does this mean that the provision in London has deteriorated since then?

Country	Beds/10,000 (1987 except where shown)
Norway	157.5
Sweden	127.3
Czechoslovakia	126.2
West Germany	110.3
Austria	107.9
France	106.5
Italy	77.0
United Kingdom	68.3
Denmark	63.0
United States	52.8
Greece	51.6
Portugal	45.2

Sources (from Journal of the American Medical Association, May 13, 1992), World Bank, 1991 and Institute of Health Information and Statistics, 1991

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WRIGHT,
17 Rowdon Avenue, NW10.

French farming

From Mrs J. W. H. Percival

Sir, Did France sabotage the Gatt talks to defend "a highly efficient and adaptable farm sector" (your Paris correspondent, November 11) or "their inefficient farm industry" (Simon Jenkins, fulminating in the same issue)?

Since the French farmer is a dying breed, time will probably solve the problem faster than any amount of talks. The most recent statistics I could quickly call upon showed that nearly half of French farmers are over 55, more than two thirds of the over-50s did not have a successor in view — and they exploited a quarter of France's agricultural land.

West German farmers, co-creators of the common agricultural policy, are much younger on average. Only a third are over 55, and so likely to be around longer.

Economists point out that some \$200 billion wait upon Gatt success to be released into world trade and so fight world recession. Economists persuaded French farmers to produce wheat, maize, oil-seed rape and foin gras, now profitable only for the very few. Perhaps one should just take a number of farmers out of trade altogether, and make them salaried gardeners and tourist guides paid directly by Brussels.

Yours faithfully,
DOINA PERCIVAL,
La Chaise,
24350 Tocane St Apres, France.

Battle stations

From Dr R. S. W. Hawtrey

Sir, Waterloo station should certainly not be renamed when it becomes a continental terminal (Lynne Truss, November 17). King's Cross, however, which will also in due course be connected with the tunnel, is another matter: its name might offend French republican sentiments. What about calling it "Agincourt"?

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HAWTREY,
42 Leicester Villas,
Hove, East Sussex.

50: امت الاصل

... ..



ITALY 31-35

The Italians face tough decisions



BUSINESS 25-30

Recession leaves the milkman with a sour taste



SPORT 43-48

Power pays dividends for Ivanisevic

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Page 47

THE TIMES

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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19 1992

BUSINESS TODAY

UNOPEN SKIES



Improved services and lower air fares remain a dream as Europe's open skies policy is challenged by national governments
Page 29

FLAT BEER

Whitbread held interim profits but gave warning that its markets remain depressed
Pages 27 and 28

IN THE BLACK



Commercial Union, back in profit, is raising £100 million to help fund its quest for greater market share
Page 27

TOUGH TALK



An accountancy journal pulls no punches about the state of the profession, writes Robert Bruce
Page 36

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8240 (+0.0083)
German mark 2.4219 (-0.0070)
Exchange Index 78.1 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 20122.2 (+15.8)
FT-SE 100 2704.0 (+24.8)
New York Dow Jones 3208.99 (+15.87)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 16778.84 (+785.36)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 7%
3-month Interbank: 7.75%
3-month eligible bills: 6.75-6.85%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 2.25%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.15-3.14%
30-year bonds: 10.15-10.12%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.5200
£ DM1.5975
£ Sfr1.4650
£ FF8.1930
£ Yen124.43
£ Index: 65.2
DOLL: 50.815174
£ DOLL: 225.918
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$335.40 PM \$335.10
Close \$334.90-\$335.30
£219.80-\$220.10
New York:
Comex \$334.65-\$335.15

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) \$19.10/bbl (\$19.15)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.9 October (1987=100)
*Denotes midday trading price

Experts say half threatened pits could be viable

By ROSS TIEMAN

MINISTERS were told in January that half the 31 pits earmarked for closure by British Coal could become viable within the next three to four years, according to mining consultants employed by the government. Ministers leaders described the revelation as "incredible".

Despite this advice from its own experts, the government announced the closure of 31 pits last month. The decision was put under review after a public outcry.

Half the pits, according to the consultants, would be capable of producing coal at costs well below the price agreed between British Coal and its main customers, National Power and PowerGen, the electricity generators.

The report by John T. Boyds, the American mining consultant, was delivered to the trade department at the beginning of this year. A review of the contents was made to the trade and industry select committee enquiry, by Ronald Lewis, a Boyds official, yesterday.

David Prendergast, vice-president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, said: "This is incredible. Ministers must have been aware of what was in the Boyds report."

The UDM is re-opening its High Court battle against the pit closures this morning.

Mr Lewis told the committee his company had been asked to evaluate the prospects of 28 pits. The consultants concluded that better management, improved mining techniques and more flexible working practices could enable production of coal from 27 of the mines at an average price of 133p a gigajoule "three or four years down the road". That price would make British coal competitive on

■ Ministers ignored advice from their own experts that half of the 31 pits facing closure could become economic by 1996. Miners' leaders said the revelation was incredible

cost with imported coal delivered to inland power stations. Asked how many of the 31 mines earmarked for closure had the potential to produce at that price, Mr Lewis replied: "I would say 15 or 16."

Mr Lewis said there were "possibilities" of further improvements that would later cut the cost of output from the 27 pits to 115p a gigajoule. At this price, British coal might be able to undercut all imports.

He stressed there was no need for substantial capital investment, or compromises on safety, to achieve output at a competitive price. But the government would have to legislate to enable more flexible working practices, he told the committee.

The Boyds study covered some of British Coal's most efficient pits, as well as five where production has already been halted.

According to information obtained by Coal UK, the energy newsletter, nine of the 28 pits whose future is now under review were examined by Boyds. In addition, Boyds looked at some pits on the list of ten where production has been halted, including Grimethorpe and Houghton Main, in Yorkshire, Betws, in Wales, and Padiack, in the north-west.

However, the consultants have now been hired by the government to conduct a further review. This will examine the 19 pits British Coal plans to keep open, but will focus most closely on the prospects

for competitive production at the 21 pits British Coal wants to close, but which were granted a stay of execution after public outcry at the closure plans.

Mr Lewis said some of the five pits on the closure list of ten had prospects for improved productivity. But he was not convinced they could be made viable in the long term.

"Realistically, when you look at the future of the British Coal collieries, it is not a question of whether it is 50 collieries or 40, it is a question of whether it will be 40 collieries or less," he said.

Mr Lewis told the committee British Coal had achieved commendable improvements in productivity, and many of its miners had outstanding skill and endurance.

"You have individuals who work harder than any other miners in the world," he said. Britain should be proud of the quality of its miners, he added.

However, he criticised British Coal's management as over-centralised. Mr Lewis said many overseas seemed unsure whether they were supposed to be safety representatives or foremen.

Powergen, which has promised to pass the benefit of any reduction in coal prices to customers, yesterday reported a 1 per cent rise in profits to £98 million. Sir Graham Day, chairman, expects satisfactory results for the year.

Times, page 28
Comment, page 29



Golden promise: Sir Graham Day, of PowerGen, has agreed to pass on any benefits of lower coal prices to customers

Earnings at RHM plummet by 38%

By ANGELA MACKAY

RANKS Hovis McDougall, the baking and groceries group, reported a 38 per cent slump in pre-tax profits to £92.6 million for the year to September 5, in line with both its own and brokers' forecasts. The company last month forecast £92 million; that coincided with a £925 million agreed offer from Tomkins, the industrial conglomerate headed by Greg Hinchings. Tomkins, which now holds about 25 per cent of the food group, appears set for success, especially as its rival, Hanson, withdrew from the bidding last week.

The bulk of the fall in RHM's profits was attributable to the milling and bread baking division, pre-tax profits of which dived from almost £60 million to £20.3 million. With high wheat prices and overcapacity in the market, this division is likely to be the first area that Tomkins overhauls.

Manor Bakeries, maker of Mr Kipling cakes, also suffered during the year; its contribution fell from £18.5 million to £10.9 million. The American operation performed poorly, its profits falling from £13.7 million to £3.1 million after RHM failed to recognise the trends in the peanut markets. Food services and grocery products were the best divisions, contributing more than half of profits.

Group sales rose slightly to £1.56 billion. The first dividend was in line with expectations at 9.54p, taking the total for the year to 13.36p, level with 1991. Earnings per share fell from 29.5p to 19.8p. Analysts said that if RHM continued to trade on its current form, 1993 profits would be unchanged from this year.

Full £5bn BT sale likely

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Treasury is set to raise more than £5 billion with the sale of a third tranche of BT shares in the next financial year. City analysts said last night they expect the Treasury to sell all of its remaining stake, although a Treasury spokesman said yesterday that no decision has been taken on the timing or the size of the stake to be sold.

The sale could come just four months after the third and final payment, due on March 2, 1993, on the last BT sale. The government was left with a 21.8 per cent stake after the second BT share sale in November last year. At yesterday's closing price of 396p, that stake is worth £5.3 billion. The Chancellor revealed the

Treasury's plans to sell a further stake as he opened a two-day debate on last week's Autumn Statement.

Chris McFadden, of Smith New Court, said there is likely to be strong demand for BT shares even though people will have only just finished paying for the last tranche. The public offer of the last sale was 1.7 times oversubscribed.

The Treasury has said it wants to raise £5.5 billion in privatisation proceeds in the next two financial years.

The announcement means the sale of the government's remaining 40 per cent stakes in National Power and PowerGen will almost certainly be delayed until 1994-5. The generators are keen for an

earlier sale of their shares, but the government is reluctant to proceed given the uncertainty over the UK's energy policy, which is under review by the trade department.

Ten firms have been invited to take part in a beauty parade for the jobs of global coordinator of the BT sale, financial adviser and lead UK broker.

Front-runners are thought to be Warburg, NM Rothschild and Kleinwort Benson. BT welcomed the decision because "it removes the fear, however ill-founded, that the government might be tempted to interfere with BT's management processes".

Decision cheered, page 1

Retail sales figures could herald Christmas cheer

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

RETAIL sales rose slightly in October, maintaining a three-month run of improving high street figures, and confounding a gloomy survey of retailing conditions published by the Confederation of British Industry this week.

The stronger than expected sales figures, which reflected only the first point of the three one-point cuts in interest rates since sterling was devalued, suggested that the economy might not prove as weak in the run-up to Christmas as most analysts had supposed.

Although retail sales volumes, adjusted for inflation, rose only 0.1 per cent in October, the increase was broadly based and contrasted with the City's average expectation of a 0.4 per cent decline. Given the sharp falls in consumer confidence recorded in all surveys after the devaluation in mid-September, the fact that there was any sales

advance at all in October suggested underlying strength in consumer demand.

The index of retail sales volumes, up from 121.4 in October from 121.3 in September, has now overtaken the highest quarterly level attained before the onset of the recession. In the second quarter of 1990, the index hit its highest quarterly level of 121.3.

The average volume of retail sales in the past three months, at 121.2, was still slightly below the pre-recession quarterly peak, but 1.6 per cent higher than a year ago. The three-month average was also 0.9 per cent higher than the average between May and July.

A large part of the strength in October's retail sales was in food shops, which enjoyed a 1.3 per cent increase in monthly sales. But specialist non-food retailers also enjoyed

higher volumes, up 0.2 per cent. Mixed retailers, which include both food and non-food businesses, suffered a sharp fall of 1.1 per cent.

According to the Retail Consortium, the industry association that conducts a monthly survey to flesh out the retail sales figures, non-food sectors that showed good sales in October included clothing, footwear, chemicals and electrical and electronics. Do-it-yourself business remained depressed.

Overall, October sales indicated "a cautious but reasonable rise to the Christmas season", according to Hugh Clark, policy director of the Retail Consortium. □ America's trade deficit fell to \$8.31 billion in September from \$8.95 billion in August. Exports rose 6.8 per cent to \$38.24 billion, while imports increased 4 per cent to \$46.55 billion.

Zed and the art of ICI demerging

By GEORGE SIVELL

AFTER the visit of the takeover wizard the boffins at ICI have turned to alchemy. Searching to name the bio-science business, planned to be demerged next year, ICI has turned to the medieval quest to turn base metals into gold.

The demerger follows an approach more than a year ago by Lord Hanson, who suggested just such a move. ICI denies the demerger had anything to do with Lord Hanson and says it has been working on such plans for two years.

But Britain's chemicals giant has gone back almost to the dark ages in its search for a new bio-science identity. The letter "Z" of the logo for Zeneca, the chosen name, is derived from an ancient alchemists' symbol used as an abbreviation for proof. The name Zeneca itself alludes to zenith, the highest point or state, the very

ZENECA

opposite of nadir, which more aptly describes ICI's fortunes at the moment.

Sir Denys Henderson, the ICI chairman, split out yesterday that the decision to proceed with the demerger would depend on the world economy and market conditions at the time of ICI's full-year results next February.

He also said life was "not a bundle of laughs" at the moment and pointed out we are in "a very severe recession". But he found compensation in the fall of the pound against world currencies.

Some analysts feel that the demerger may be shelved because the rump of ICI, a highly cyclical commodities business, would not be able to cover an adequate

dividend in the immediate future. "They have chosen that as their hypothesis" was Sir Denys's retort.

But even if the demerger does not go ahead we have not heard the last of Zeneca. The ocean blue brand name will appear on the side of ICI tubes and packets along with the existing dark blue ICI roundel. The ICI roundel will slowly disappear from packets after demerger.

ICI intends to gradually phase in Zeneca as old stocks of ICI stationery, vans, uniforms or whatever run out.

Zeneca was a creation of the imaginations at Interbrand, set up in 1974 to advise on product branding. They will get a five-figure sum. Interbrand successes include Metro, Maestro and Montego for Rover, Hob-Nobs for United Biscuits, and Homebase for Sainsbury.

Comment, page 29

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مكتبة الأمل

Nikkei soars on talk of bid to save market

FROM JOANNA PITMAN
IN TOKYO

TOKYO stock market prices rose nearly 5 per cent yesterday as institutions and individuals poured money into equities in response to speculation that the Ministry of Finance had asked major institutional investors to buy.

The Nikkei 225 average gained 785.36 points to close at 16,778.84 after two days of significant drops on Monday and Tuesday that pushed the Nikkei down nearly 2 per cent. Share trading volume surged to an estimated 350 million, giving the market its biggest boost since August 27 when

Japanese investors are nervous about the prospects for recovery, fearing the economy has not yet bottomed out, and the government is under pressure to take action

the government announced an emergency economic package.

Market analysts said the gains would be temporary but that the speculation, if true, suggests that the ministry was adopting desperate measures to save the stock market.

Yoshihisa Kitai, economist at Long Term Credit Bank, said: "My instinct tells me that

the gains were merely a response to the overselling on Tuesday which pushed the market below the 15,000 level. If the Ministry of Finance is really taking such measures to force institutional investors to buy, it means that the condition of the market must indeed be very very bad. The longer term conclusion of most investors will therefore be to sell in two or three months' time."

The Tokyo stock market has been suffering from meagre trading levels and inordinate volatility and the Nikkei average has fallen more than 2,000 points in the last three weeks. Most domestic investors are nervous about the prospects for economic recovery and are beginning to acknowledge that the economy has not yet bottomed out.

The government's Economic Planning Agency yesterday published a regular monthly report stating that minimal growth in consumer spending and slow corporate capital expenditure, the two sectors traditionally viewed as the main dynamo for economic recovery, continue to slow economic growth.

Investors and bureaucrats are concerned that the impasse in the Diet, Japan's parliament, caused by the latest political scandal, will postpone a ¥10 trillion (£52.84 billion) supplementary budget and economic rescue measures.



Profit insulators: David Herman, left, and Bill Hancock, managing director

Anglian shuts out the recession

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

A SHARP decline in interest costs has helped Anglian, Britain's biggest retail double glazing company, to weather the recession.

Despite severe pressures on its markets, Anglian, which came to the market in July, unveiled maiden pre-tax profits of £10.3 million in the six months to September 26, against £8.86 million last time. On a restated basis, taxable profits would be ahead by 5.2 per cent. Turnover was £71.4 million (£72.5 million). Sir Colin Barker

chairman, said: "We are doing well in worse than anticipated conditions."

David Herman, finance director, said retail sales to homeowners, which account for about 90 per cent of September's orders were hit by the events surrounding Black Wednesday, but sales have "bounced back", boosted by marketing initiatives.

Anglian's business, were down on last year, although public-sector sales showed an increase.

Both retail and public-sector margins held up well, although public-sector work generally yields lower margins than retail work. The overall operating margin

slashed to 597,000 (£25.3 million). Earnings climbed to 9p (8.9p). There is a maiden interim dividend of 3.7p, against the 3.5p indicated in the prospectus. Robin Hardy, at Panmure Gordon, expects full-year profits of 21.5p (19.9p).

Usher-Walker agrees £14.8m American offer

SHARES in Usher-Walker rocketed 80p to 161p after the specialist manufacturer of printing inks unveiled an agreed £14.8 million takeover offer from Sun Chemical Corporation.

Sun, a leading American supplier of graphic arts materials to the printing industry in Europe and North and South America, is offering Usher shareholders 167.5p a share – more than double Tuesday's closing price. There is a loan note alternative and a preference offer. Sun plans to sell Usher's non-inks businesses, particularly Surface Flatness, the engineering services operation. Usher-Walker, which employs about 320 people, said few job losses were envisaged.

Shani lifts payout

SHANI Group, the USM-quoted company that designs and supplies women's and children's clothing, is raising its dividend after improved pre-tax profits of £1.96 million (£1.91 million) in the year to end-July, helped by better operating margins. Turnover, hit by lower volumes and lower prices, declined 7.1 per cent to £12 million. The company said there was continuing demand for small runs at short notice. Shani had net cash of \$4.84 million at the year-end. Earnings climb to 9.2p (8.9p) a share. A final dividend of 2.8p (2.4p) is recommended, for a total of 4.4p (4p).

Sidlaw advances 27%

GROWTH in demand for oil services and further acquisitions in packaging contributed to a 27 per cent rise in annual profits at Sidlaw, the diversified group based in Scotland. In the 12 months to September 30, pre-tax profits rose from £8.3 million to £10.5 million and earnings from 18.1p a share to 22p, an increase of 22 per cent. There is a final dividend of 6.25p, making 10p for the year, up from 9p. The contribution from oil services rose by £5.06 million to £6.7 million, reflecting higher activity at ASCo's supply bases for the North Sea.

Jerome reduces loss

S JEROME & Sons (Holdings) may be forced to make provisions against contracts at Canary Wharf, London's troubled Docklands development. The company, now focused on textiles, retained contracts worth £1.1 million after selling CMR, its electronics division, to Westinghouse. Some contractors are in administration and legal action is being taken to recover cash. Jerome made a £9,000 loss before tax for the six months to June 30, down from a £576,000 loss last time. The interim dividend is passed (1p).

Foreign buyers pull out of Hong Kong

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

OVERSEAS buyers withdrew from the Hong Kong share market yesterday because of concern over the deepening political rift between Britain and China.

The Hang Seng index plummeted 240 points, or 4 per cent, to close at 5,848. The plunge came on the heels of two days of panic selling, bringing total losses to 517 points, or 8 per cent of the market's value, in three days.

Local and overseas investors took fright at China's determination to scupper democratic reforms proposed by Chris Patten, Hong Kong's governor. Zhu Rongji, a deputy Chinese prime minister, has threatened to tear up the 1984 Joint Declaration that guarantees a capitalist lifestyle for

Hong Kong until the year 2047. China has withdrawn its support for Hong Kong's new airport and threatened to impose its own government and legislature in 1997. But until this week, share buyers had not taken the threats seriously. Strong buying pushed the Hang Seng to its record high of 6,447 only last Thursday. The volatility of the market shows how vulnerable the colony is to China's political dictates.

Brokers say yesterday saw the first sign of exodus by foreign institutions, which had bought heavily in the past few months. The local market is led by overseas buying. Analysts expect the market to edge lower now the 6,000-point level has been passed.

[illegible]

Commercial Union back in black with £6 million profit

By Neil Bennett

COMMERCIAL Union, the composite insurer, is back in the black for the first nine months of the year and is making a £100 million preference share issue, its second this year, to help it in a campaign to capture market share.

The group reported a £6.1 million pre-tax profit in the period, compared with a £42.4 million loss last time. The profit pleased the City, which had been expecting a loss, and the shares rose 9p to 573p.

Analysts now believe the group is on course for a small profit for the full year. CU achieved the turnaround due to a 15 per cent rise in general insurance premium income to £2.46 billion and an 11 per cent fall in underwriting losses to £302 million. The rise in premiums allowed CU

Commercial Union has increased the cost of motor insurance by one third in the past 18 months to compensate for a steep rise in claims

to increase its investment income by £2.5 million to £212 million, despite the fall in British and American interest rates.

CU is benefiting from its decision to pull out of the mortgage indemnity market in the late eighties.

The group also escaped almost unscathed from Hurricane Andrew, which hit America in August. CU said the hurricane cost it just £3 million, since it has little presence in southern Florida or the Louisiana coast where most of the damage occurred. This

allowed profits in America to rise 137 per cent to £35.5 million.

In Britain, general insurance benefited from a series of heavy rate increases that CU has pushed through in the last 18 months. The cost of motor insurance has risen by a third in the past year, as the group struggled to compensate for a steep rise in claims.

Despite the rate rises CU is steadily capturing market share from its rivals. General premiums in Britain rose by a quarter in the period to £1.1 billion. This, coupled with a £10 million fall in subsidence claims to £14 million, helped turn round the general business into a £1.3 million profit, compared with a £52 million loss in 1991.

CU's life assurance side generated a 37 per cent rise in premiums worldwide. In Britain the group's Classic Investment Bond attracted a heavy flow of funds, but demand for regular savings and pension plans was flat.

CU's figures included a £15 million provision for the damage it suffered in the Baltic Exchange bombing.

While profits from Delta Lloyd, CU's Dutch subsidiary, continued to rise, the black spot in the figures were losses of £33 million from its other European businesses. Paul Fould, the group financial controller, said that the losses could start to fall as premiums on the continent begin to rise.

CU's latest preference share issue will give it the capital to continue to expand its life and general business. The issue was placed by Hoare Govett, the broker, yesterday.

The interest coupon is 2.4 per cent above gilts, 0.2 per cent cheaper than the last placing in May. CU's solvency margin, a ratio between capital and premium income which is a measure of stability, was thought to be around 41 per cent before the issue, and had to be improved to ensure it could develop its life and general business unhindered.



Milk meat: Unigate's Ross Buckland (left), Sir Brian Kellett, chairman, and John Worby, finance director

Recession squeezes Unigate

UNIGATE, the food, milk and distribution group, says the recession has hurt its UK food business (Colin Campbell writes).

Ross Buckland, chief executive, said Unigate's American restaurants and vehicle businesses had performed well. That had offset the weakness of other divisions. Pre-tax profit for the six months to September 30 was £42 million, compared with £43.3 million previously.

The interim dividend is maintained at 5.7p. Unigate continues to refocus activities, concentrating on its core food and distribution divisions. It recently sold its US cheese businesses for \$75 million.

Because of the recession, Unigate expects profitability in the remainder of the current financial year to be maintained at a level similar to last year's.

The shares rose 4p to 289p.

Whitbread warns of flat prospects as profits rise

By Colin Campbell

WHITBREAD, the brewing and retailing group, says the markets it serves are depressed and highly competitive, and is cautious about the trading outlook.

Sir Michael Angus, chairman, yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £143 million in the six months to August 29, on a turnover of £1.18 billion, against £142.5 million previously, when turnover was £1.06 billion.

Though net earnings eased from 23.58p to 22.65p a share, the interim dividend rises 4.4 per cent to 4.75p.

Sir Michael said the results were satisfactory, considering market conditions.

The group gained market share in its cornerstone divi-

sions — beer, pubs and restaurants — but in line with other UK hotel businesses, the Lansbury and Country Club Hotels had a difficult period, Sir Michael said.

The hotel interests will not be expanded further until better returns are achieved, he added.

Whitbread has now fully complied with the government's directive to reduce its pubs. The group has 2,300 Whitbread pub partnerships and 1,600 managed pubs.

Sir Michael said the growth in beer sales was led by Boddingtons Bitter. Sales of Murphy's Irish Stout grew 35 per cent.

Profits at the Beefeater chain were ahead, while Pizza Hut achieved profits in line with last year, despite difficult trading conditions and severely depressed high street retailing. The sale of Pizza Hut interests in Belgium and the

Netherlands has been completed, while the sale of those in France is under negotiation.

The Thresher chain acquired Peter Dominick during the interim period. The division claims a market share of the total take-home alcohol market of more than 10 per cent.

Peter Jarvis, chief executive, said Whitbread's performance in the interim period resulted from a concentration on the basics of sales, service and cost savings in tough conditions.

In recognition of changed conditions in the property market, Whitbread is to have its UK properties professionally revalued as at February 27. The results should be incorporated into the annual accounts.

Whitbread A shares rose 11p to 432p on the news.

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Land Sec improves against the trend

By Our City Staff

LAND Securities is continuing to prosper, despite the property recession, due to low debts and a stable portfolio. The group increased pre-tax profits by 4 per cent to £116 million in the half year to end-September.

Rental income rose by 9 per cent to £202 million due to a continuing flow of rent reviews. Land Sec is also beginning to benefit from the expiry of rent-free periods agreed in the past two years. The rise in profits allowed the group to raise its interim dividend by 5 per cent to 6.3p.

The group, like most property companies, does not publish a net asset valuation at the half year, but City analysts are expecting it to fall at the end of the year from 5.5p at present to as little as 4.6p.

Peter Hunt, the chairman, said that in the past six months Land Sec has cut the amount of its unlet developed property by 2 million sq ft to 10 million sq ft. Despite this, the group is keeping its development programme to a minimum. Land Sec is currently working on retail schemes in Canterbury, Kent, and Boston, Lincolnshire, and refurbishing a shopping centre in Ulster.

"We have office developments sitting there but I am not starting them until I see a receptive market and decent rents," Mr Hunt said. He did not expect any improvement in the market early in the new year. The group's interest payments rose by 12 per cent to £65 million in the half year due to the full effect of a £200 million debenture issue. Mr Hunt said that the level of debts was comfortable. "It still gives us the ability to take a bit more on if we see values rising," he said, adding that the group would look for acquisitions if the market begins to recover.

More than three quarters of Land Sec's income is guaranteed until the year 2000, which protects it against further property downturns.

Meanwhile, Land Sec earned £11.9 million from interest on deposits, up 20 per cent. But Mr Hunt warned shareholders that this would fall in the second half due to the reduction in interest rates, which will in turn hit profits.

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Courtaulds to rise after half-way slip

By Our City Staff

COURTAULDS, the international chemical materials group, suffered a fall in first-half profits of 9 per cent to £38.8 million in the six months to end-September.

However, analysts are upgrading full-year forecasts to £195 million, against £186 million last year. Currency gains may be £10 million over the year but may be countered by a rise in the cost of raw materials and the American debt held by Courtaulds.

The half-year dividend rises from 3.65p to 3.8p a share out of earnings down from 19.3p to 18.3p a share. Sipko Huismans, the chief executive, said: "Given the trading conditions we have experienced, these are sound results. Courtaulds is not immune to the effects of prolonged recession and I am pleased that sales overall have kept pace with last year even though margins have been squeezed."

Results were not helped by the strength of sterling against the American dollar for most of the period nor by the depressed state of the aerospace industry and softness in

the viscose market in the USA.

Analysts say that some of Courtaulds more difficult businesses are showing improvement, trading in the US is better than a few months ago and Europe is holding up. They also say a pension fund holiday continues at about £21 million a year and a further surplus is expected at the next revaluation in March 1993.

Mr Huismans added: "We shall now benefit from our increased competitiveness as a leading-based producer in dollar-based fibre and chemical markets. Trading conditions elsewhere remain difficult. We intend to maintain the priority we are giving to improving productivity in all areas."

Operating profits at Courtaulds coatings division slipped from £28 million to £27 million and performance materials slipped from £9 million to £7 million. But packaging rose from £11 million to £13 million and chemicals went up from £18 million to £19 million. Fibres and films slipped from £36 million to £31 million.

IDV buys into Italian drinks firm

International Distillers and Vintners (IDV), the drinks division of Grand Metropolitan, has taken a 33.8 per cent stake in Budon, an Italian drinks group best known in Italy for Vecchia Romagna, Italy's leading brandy.

IDV paid £43.7 million (£21 million) for the stake in the Milan-quoted company in a move signalling its growing interest in the Mediterranean drinks market. IDV will be a minority partner, with the Sassoli de Bianchi family retaining control with a 50.1 per cent stake.

The deal will be supplemented with a commercial relationship. IDV said yesterday that if this commercial relationship does not take off, it has arranged for the stake to be sold back to the vendors.

Soaring Andrew

The latest insurance costs of Hurricane Andrew, the worst storm to hit America's South East coast, has jumped to \$13.4 billion. The figure from A.M. Best, the insurance credit rating agency, is 25 per cent higher than the estimate from the industry's trade association and almost a third higher than originally thought.

Rebels rebuffed

The board of Hoskins Brewery, the small USM-quoted brewing group, received strong support from shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting called by rebels attempting to remove certain board members, including the chairman. About 84 per cent of the votes cast rejected the motion, led by Richard Cattermole, a shareholder, and Dennis Bailey, a stockbroker and former Hoskins director.

Young suffers

POOR summer weather dented half-year profits at Young & Co., the London brewer. The bleak economic climate also hit beer sales in the City, said John Young, chairman. In the six months to the end of September pre-tax profits fell from £3.1 million to £2.5 million and earnings from 15.45p a share to 12.27p. The interim is unchanged at 7p.

New ITN bid wins positive reception from shareholders

Under the new deal, Granada will join the Carlton-led consortium, writes Melinda Wittstock

A NEW and final offer for Independent Television News will be sent to the troubled news company's ITV shareholders next week after the deadline for the consortium bid, led by Carlton Communications, lapsed yesterday without agreement.

Under the improved offer, the three ITV companies that lost their franchises — Thames, TVS and TSW — will be given £14 a share as compensation. But the original terms of £1 a share will apply to all other shareholders.

The consortium, which includes Reuters, LWT and Central, will also be expanded to include Granada Television, Scottish and Anglia. Each of the four original consortium members will reduce their proposed stakes from 20 per cent to make way for Granada as a fifth and equal partner. All five main shareholders will have 18 per cent each, with Anglia and Scottish 5 per cent each.

The new deal, discussed by shareholders at an ITN board meeting on Tuesday, is understood to have won the support of enough shareholders to succeed. Under ITN's articles of association, any takeover can be blocked



Newsmaker: Michael Green, Carlton chairman

without the support of those representing 75 per cent of the share capital.

The original offer from Carlton, led by Michael Green, faltered amid opposition from Thames, Yorkshire and Granada. It is now understood that Thames, which believed £1 a share for its 22 per cent stake in ITN "insulting", will accept the £14 a share offer.

Only Yorkshire, which threatened to oppose the original deal unless its share of ITN's £53.3 million a year agreement to supply ITV with News At Ten and other bulletins was reduced, appears to lose out. "There's no

special deal for Yorkshire," said one consortium source, despite speculation that the revised offer might allow it to pay less at the start of the five-year supply agreement.

The new offer, which is due to be sent to shareholders for final approval on Monday, will contain irrevocable undertakings from most shareholders. All are aware of the final terms, but have yet to see a document. Final negotiations are now in the hands of lawyers.

Thames shares rose 7p to 186p on the news. Granada rose 4p to 289p but Yorkshire was unchanged at 115p.

Lower interest rates hurt Willis Corroon

By Neil Bennett

THE sharp fall in interest rates in Britain and America and weak insurance markets caused pre-tax profits at Willis Corroon, the Anglo-American insurance broker, to plunge 32 per cent to £60.9 million in the first nine months of the year.

The company also gave warning of a loss in the fourth quarter, because it will not benefit from the fall in sterling this year as it had already hedged its dollar revenues at lower rates before Black Wednesday, September 16.

Willis has also hedged a large part of its dollar earnings

next year at the lower rates. This, with continuing low interest rates and pressure on brokerage income, is prompting many analysts to predict a dividend cut next year.

For the third quarter, Willis held its dividend at 3.3p, but Kevin Phillips, an insurance analyst at Kleinwort Benson, predicts this will be cut to 2p a quarter in 1993. This would ensure the payout was again covered by earnings.

Profits at Willis were hit by a £13 million fall in broking investment income in the nine months to £27 million. The group also suffered an 8 per

cent rise in expenses due to the cost of recruitment and 450 redundancies in America. The redundancies are part of the group's reorganisation since the merger of Willis Faber and Corroon & Black last year. The growth in costs outstripped a 3 per cent rise in brokerage income to £429 million.

Underlying expenses increased by 3 per cent in the nine months, but fell in the third quarter. Roger Elliott, the chairman, said the group was trying to eliminate any underlying rise in costs.

Mr Elliott said insurance rates in America remain de-

pressed, despite speculation that they will be increased in the wake of Hurricane Andrew. "In the last quarter of the year we are likely at best to break even," he said. City analysts are forecasting a loss of up to £1 million.

Mr Elliott said the group was trying to build on the organisational changes and investment that took place after the merger, and this was increasing the group's costs. "The effect of this is made worse by external factors adverse not only to our business but to that of our competitors," he said.

BRITISH FUNDS

GOVERNMENT securities ended a lacklustre session on a firm note, with investors hoping for early progress in the Gatt trade talks.

Sentiment was also cheered by the news that the government intends to sell more BT shares. The bond market has been labouring under fears that it will be relied on to meet most of the government's PSBR target during the next couple of years.

Prices were initially marked lower at the longer end but recovered, helped by optimism about Gatt. Trading, however, remained thin.

On the futures market, the long gilt finished 1/2 better at £100 1/2 as almost 30,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 1/2 per cent rose 17 ticks in longs to end at £99 1/2 in shorts. Exchequer 10 per cent 1996 firmed five ticks to £109 7/8.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	±	1st	2nd
100	99 1/2	Thames 8 1/2 1993	100 1/2	+	8.20	8.20
100 1/2	99 1/2	Thames 10 1/2 1993	100 1/2	+	8.22	8.22
101 1/2	100 1/2	Thames 12 1/2 1993	101 1/2	+	8.27	8.27
102 1/2	101 1/2	Thames 14 1/2 1993	102 1/2	+	8.33	8.33
103 1/2	102 1/2	Thames 16 1/2 1993	103 1/2	+	8.40	8.40
104 1/2	103 1/2	Thames 18 1/2 1993	104 1/2	+	8.47	8.47
105 1/2	104 1/2	Thames 20 1/2 1993	105 1/2	+	8.54	8.54
106 1/2	105 1/2	Thames 22 1/2 1993	106 1/2	+	8.61	8.61
107 1/2	106 1/2	Thames 24 1/2 1993	107 1/2	+	8.68	8.68
108 1/2	107 1/2	Thames 26 1/2 1993	108 1/2	+	8.75	8.75
109 1/2	108 1/2	Thames 28 1/2 1993	109 1/2	+	8.82	8.82
110 1/2	109 1/2	Thames 30 1/2 1993	110 1/2	+	8.89	8.89
111 1/2	110 1/2	Thames 32 1/2 1993	111 1/2	+	8.96	8.96
112 1/2	111 1/2	Thames 34 1/2 1993	112 1/2	+	9.03	9.03
113 1/2	112 1/2	Thames 36 1/2 1993	113 1/2	+	9.10	9.10
114 1/2	113 1/2	Thames 38 1/2 1993	114 1/2	+	9.17	9.17
115 1/2	114 1/2	Thames 40 1/2 1993	115 1/2	+	9.24	9.24

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	±	1st	2nd
109 1/2	109 1/2	Thames 5 1/2 1996	109 1/2	+	8.23	8.23
110 1/2	110 1/2	Thames 7 1/2 1996	110 1/2	+	8.29	8.29
111 1/2	111 1/2	Thames 9 1/2 1996	111 1/2	+	8.35	8.35
112 1/2	112 1/2	Thames 11 1/2 1996	112 1/2	+	8.41	8.41
113 1/2	113 1/2	Thames 13 1/2 1996	113 1/2	+	8.47	8.47
114 1/2	114 1/2	Thames 15 1/2 1996	114 1/2	+	8.53	8.53
115 1/2	115 1/2	Thames 17 1/2 1996	115 1/2	+	8.59	8.59
116 1/2	116 1/2	Thames 19 1/2 1996	116 1/2	+	8.65	8.65
117 1/2	117 1/2	Thames 21 1/2 1996	117 1/2	+	8.71	8.71
118 1/2	118 1/2	Thames 23 1/2 1996	118 1/2	+	8.77	8.77
119 1/2	119 1/2	Thames 25 1/2 1996	119 1/2	+	8.83	8.83
120 1/2	120 1/2	Thames 27 1/2 1996	120 1/2	+	8.89	8.89
121 1/2	121 1/2	Thames 29 1/2 1996	121 1/2	+	8.95	8.95
122 1/2	122 1/2	Thames 31 1/2 1996	122 1/2	+	9.01	9.01
123 1/2	123 1/2	Thames 33 1/2 1996	123 1/2	+	9.07	9.07
124 1/2	124 1/2	Thames 35 1/2 1996	124 1/2	+	9.13	9.13
125 1/2	125 1/2	Thames 37 1/2 1996	125 1/2	+	9.19	9.19

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	±	1st	2nd
111 1/2	111 1/2	Thames 15 1/2 2002	111 1/2	+	8.32	8.32
112 1/2	112 1/2	Thames 17 1/2 2002	112 1/2	+	8.38	8.38
113 1/2	113 1/2	Thames 19 1/2 2002	113 1/2	+	8.44	8.44
114 1/2	114 1/2	Thames 21 1/2 2002	114 1/2	+	8.50	8.50
115 1/2	115 1/2	Thames 23 1/2 2002	115 1/2	+	8.56	8.56
116 1/2	116 1/2	Thames 25 1/2 2002	116 1/2	+	8.62	8.62
117 1/2	117 1/2	Thames 27 1/2 2002	117 1/2	+	8.68	8.68
118 1/2	118 1/2	Thames 29 1/2 2002	118 1/2	+	8.74	8.74
119 1/2	119 1/2	Thames 31 1/2 2002	119 1/2	+	8.80	8.80
120 1/2	120 1/2	Thames 33 1/2 2002	120 1/2	+	8.86	8.86
121 1/2	121 1/2	Thames 35 1/2 2002	121 1/2	+	8.92	8.92
122 1/2	122 1/2	Thames 37 1/2 2002	122 1/2	+	8.98	8.98
123 1/2	123 1/2	Thames 39 1/2 2002	123 1/2	+	9.04	9.04
124 1/2	124 1/2	Thames 41 1/2 2002	124 1/2	+	9.10	9.10
125 1/2	125 1/2	Thames 43 1/2 2002	125 1/2	+	9.16	9.16

UNDATED

TEMPUS

THE modest rise in rental income and profits from Land Securities at the half

Bahrein dinar	0.5665-0.5785	Belgium (Cm)	32.58
Brazil cruzeiro	1.2970-1.3080	Canada	1.2765-1.2770
Cyprus pound	0.7125-0.7225	Denmark	6.075-0.080
Czech drachma	131.02-0.1648	France	1.7384-1.739
Hong Kong dollar	11.7604-11.7788	Hong Kong	1.557-1.579
India rupee	42.89-43.55	Ireland	7.156-7.167
Kenya shilling	0.154-0.155	Italy	1354.0-1356.0
Malaysia ringgit	3.838-1.8428	Japan	124.10-124.35
New Zealand dollar	2.700-0.9040	Netherlands	1.523-1.524
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6665-5.7535	Norway	6.1544-6.455
Singapore dollar	2.4845-2.4878	Portugal	140.3-140.5
S Africa rand (fin)	7.5671-7.5545	Sweden	1.6335-1.6345
U A E dirham	4.5899-4.5750	Spain	113.4-113.5
U A E dirham	4.5899-4.5753	Switzerland	8.662-9.063
Barclays Bank CTS * Liquid Bank		Switzerland	1.405-1.4515

Base Rates: Counting Banks	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	9 mth	12 mth
Discount Market London Overnight night					
Treasury Bills (Dis-Buy 2 mth 6.13 mth 6.13 mth, Sell 2 mth 6.13; 3 mth 6.13)					
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	8 1/4%	9 1/4%
Prime Bank Money Rates	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	8 1/4%	9 1/4%
Interbank	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	8 1/4%	9 1/4%
Overnight on 6% Close 7					
Local Authority Depos:	7 1/4%	8 1/4%	7 1/4%	8 1/4%	9 1/4%
Stirling Cds				8 1/4%	9 1/4%
Dollar Cds	3.15-3.12	n/a	3.75-3.70	3.73-3.70	4.00-3.97
Stirling Society Cds		7 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	8 1/4%

ECED: Fixed Rate Sterling Offering, Mktg-up day Oct 30, 1992 Agreed rates Nov 25, 1992 to Dec 25, 1992 Scheme I & 7.5% Schemes II & III: 9.62% Reference rate Oct 1, 1992 to Oct 30, 1992 Scheme IV & V: 8.454%

Current	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
Deutschmark	8 1/4%	8 1/4%	8 1/4%	8 1/4%	9 1/4%
French Franc	9 1/4%	9 1/4%	9 1/4%	9 1/4%	10%
Swiss Franc	9 1/4%	9 1/4%	9 1/4%	9 1/4%	9 1/4%
Yen	3 1/4%	3 1/4%	3 1/4%	3 1/4%	3 1/4%

Bullion: Open	335.30-335.60	Close	333.60-335.30	High	333.10-335.60
Low	333.40-333.80	Settlement	333.40-335.60	(321.25-322.00)	

Sourcebook: Old 578-25-25 (320.75-322.75) New 578.50-75 (331.00-333.00)

Case for coal grows by the day

Hearings before the trade and industry select committee provide a public commentary on Michael Heseltine's review into why he ended up with a plainly wrong answer on pit closures and how he could find a better one. Yesterday's evidence from the American mining consultant who has already reported to the government on the key pits suggests that ministers had respectable evidence of their own that many of the pits condemned for closure could produce at economic prices within the foreseeable future. That casts Mr Heseltine's original decision in a rather different light. The pits were not condemned because they were uneconomic, as the public were led to believe. They were to be shut, more likely, because they were not needed to fulfil the contract rushed through to enable British Coal to be privatised. Otherwise, the closure plan would surely have been withdrawn before it was announced, because of the improvement to coal economics brought by devaluation.

That may explain why the DTI, inheriting the anti-coal agenda of the former energy department, came up with the wrong answer. It does not, of itself, provide Mr Heseltine with a simple way of getting out of the corner into which he has been painted. There are two main issues. First, to create room for more coal in the electricity market in the next three years. Second, to get through the transitional phase and make management changes needed to bring British Coal pits up to the cost standards the consultants are sure they can achieve.

This is likely to require some tough decisions about British Coal's top management and its privatisation schedule. Logic suggests delaying the latter, though instant sale to the private sector could be one way of changing management. Mr Heseltine will also need to interfere blatantly in the electricity market if he is to avoid taxpayer subsidy and turn to the European Community as a substantial potential medium-term market for British Coal at much lower prices than others' indigenous supplies, which are being maintained at the expense of British pits.

The longer term case for such uncongenial actions grows stronger by the day. The uneconomic nature of some gas contracts is well-known, as is the absurd cost of replacing any of Britain's ageing nuclear capacity. The pound has fallen more than expected and any further drop against the dollar will make imported coal a long-term luxury consumers would prefer not to afford. American analyses also suggest that the dollar prices of both natural gas and coal are likely to rise on the world market. At a recent American minerals conference, for instance, it was predicted that imports by Pacific rim economies will rise by 80 million tonnes a year and European imports by 70 million tonnes by the end of the decade. On this basis, Mr Heseltine would simply raise electricity costs as well as damage the economy unless he plans for a continuing market of between 50 and 60 million tonnes of British coal.

Smelling as sweet

Zeneca is at least a better computer invention as a practical new international name for ICI Bio than Exxon was for the former Esso. Introducing it will also revive the momentum for the split of ICI, by demonstrating boardroom commitment. That had seemed to be flagging in the face of acute financial snags about the dividend and balance sheet that would be left for the rump ICI. Such difficulties will only go away when the international chemicals market turns up, which is not likely to happen before Sir Denis Henderson and his colleagues are scheduled to decide on the demerger in February. It would not be a disaster if the financial split had to be put off for a year or two.

Leading European airlines remain pessimistic about liberalisation, despite assurances from regulators, says Harvey Elliott

In a little over six weeks, Europe's airlines will be liberalised — apparently free to fly where they like. The competition that the package of measures agreed by transport ministers will bring should lead to improved services and lower fares.

That, at least, is the theory. In the gloom-ridden boardrooms of Europe's financially haemorrhaging airlines, however, there is no such optimism. Most predict the onset of a fierce battle as the biggest fight to retain dominance and swallow up smaller loss-makers. It could even become a rerun of the American experience of deregulation, which has resulted in all but one of the 176 airlines set up to provide competition forced out of business.

Europe's regulators say they are determined to ensure that this does not happen and that they will frame rules so that new entrant airlines will be able to take on the big boys. Despite their high ideals, however, they are flying in the face of the reality of a market in which national governments are still protecting their own "flag carriers". The lack of airport landing slots also makes it virtually impossible for new airlines, or even existing airlines, to grow.

Even British Midland, which is leading the campaign to ensure genuine competition, is pessimistic. Sir Michael Bishop, British Midland chairman, said: "There is a myth which seems to be putting to rest. It is that on January 1, 1993, we will see a brave new world in European air travel where the consumer shall at last be king. Sadly, the pitfalls remain great and political will throughout Europe remains, at best, lukewarm. The prospect of dramatically lower air fares remains, at this stage, no more than a tantalising mirage. There is simply too much at stake for too many vested interests to hope for a magic quick fix."

One of his main complaints is that, despite the talk of a united Europe, nationalism is as rampant as ever and that state subsidies, which have resulted in little or no incentive to reduce costs or improve efficiency, will continue, however high the price.

Open skies dream is clouded by spectre of protected flag-carriers



Flight of fancy? Many airline chiefs have their doubts about whether real competition will materialise

Those few governments that have decided they can no longer bear the drain of keeping the national flag flying are discovering that the losses are so vast that no private investor will put money into the state-owned ventures, or even take them off their hands completely.

Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of the defunct British Caledonian, once said: "If you have to tighten your belt you are in a recession. If you have no belt left to tighten you are in a slump. If your trousers are around your ankles you are in the airline industry."

Europe's airline industry, struggling against the recession anyway, has indeed got its trousers firmly around its feet. In the last financial year, the 22 members of the Association of European Airlines ran up combined losses of \$1.05 billion and only privatised British Airways, with profits of \$685.3 million, is remotely in a position to expand, buy new aircraft and compete with the international airlines of the Far East and America.

Even BA, which this week announced a rise of almost 25 per cent in its half yearly profits, is worried about the future and warns that prospects remain uncertain as yields fall and the world recession shows no sign of ending. Within a few years, it says, there will only be a handful of big global airlines flying, and it is determined to be one of them.

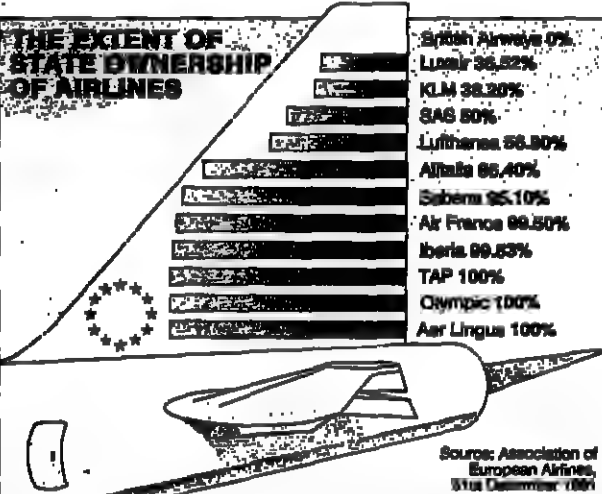
Yet, ironically, the regulators are determined to curb its growth in the name of competition where they can, even though the government pragmatically nodded through its acquisition of the near-bankrupt Dan-Air.

British Airways wants to remain dominant in Europe and, by drastic cost-cutting and aggressive purchasing, is slowly building up a genuine European-wide combine. For the others, virtually all state-owned in some degree, the prospect of the ever-more efficient BA gradually taking over is frightening. They too are beginning to realise that if they are to survive and if their governments are to be persuaded to go on throwing money into the bottomless pit of their losses, they also must cut costs.

Jan Carlzon, chairman of the Scandinavian Airlines System, SAS, is convinced that by 1995 there will be only five major international airlines left, with others filling niche markets, and is bracing himself for some tough decisions. He said: "We have no choice. The time has come to jump into the cold water."

Most European airlines have a long way to go before they can hope to match BA's efficiency. Air France, despite its position at the centre of Europe, and its huge turnover, the company lost \$132 million in 1990 and a further \$12 million in 1991. Management and unions have been sheltered from real competition by the French government, which owns all but 0.5 per cent of the airline. Its recent investment in Sabena could give a boost — but can two loss makers become one big profit centre?

Lufthansa: The German



government wants to sell 51 per cent of its 56 per cent stake in the airline but, so far, has not found anyone prepared to pick up what could be a poisoned chalice. The airline lost \$257 million last year and is struggling against determined and strong union opposition to reduced labour costs. Lufthansa spends 32 per cent of its total costs on wages, compared with only 24 per cent at British Airways. If it can cut these costs and take full advantage of its position between East and West, the carrier could become one of the most powerful by 1995.

Alitalia: The priority for the Italian airline, in which the government has an 86 per cent stake and which lost \$27.9 million last year, is to replace its ageing fleet and find a north European partner. Over-manning and poor passenger reputation, however, is adding to its troubles.

KLM: The sky-high reputation of the partly privatised Dutch airline and Amsterdam's Schiphol airport is providing KLM with a much needed flow of high-yield transatlantic traffic. A loss of \$346 million in 1990 was turned into a \$66 million profit last year. KLM desperately needs more partner airlines, however, if it is to pick up passengers from the rest of Europe and feed them on to its transatlantic service, rather than see them drained away to Heathrow or Frankfurt.

Iberia: Almost wholly owned by the Spanish government, Iberia has taken some dramatic marketing initiatives that have resulted in many more passengers but, because they are generally paying low fares, enormous losses. The airline lost \$137 million in 1990 and a further \$346 million last year. Even the Spanish government is beginning to blanch at the continuing losses and are pressing for ever tighter links with airlines in Latin America to help take advantage of the fast-growing, high-yield southern Atlantic services.

Aer Lingus: The Irish government's proposal to sell 49 per cent of the wholly state-owned airline has brought howls of outrage from the unions. But Aer Lingus is fighting a losing battle from the periphery of Europe and lost \$18.5 million last year, with accumulated debts of \$1.05 billion. Now it too is looking for a partner in central Europe or North America, again without success.

Olympic: The Greek airline is in an even more desperate financial plight and the government is anxious to be rid of the millstone around its neck. With a turnover of only \$828.5 million, Olympic lost \$164.3 million in 1990 and a further \$134 million last year.

With £30 billion a year being spent on air fares in Europe, it would seem, at first sight, that airlines should be able to make money. The fact that the vast majority do not and that the average ticket is now sold at a loss of around £10 indicates just how inefficient they have become through years of protectionist government intervention, and how the clamour for ever cheaper air fares is a cruel misreading of the problems now facing the industry.

Little wonder that so many state-owned airlines are looking at BA's healthy profits with envy. The problem they face, however, is turning that into a harsh market-driven economy without destroying the quality of service or causing industrial unrest among union employees.

Cheap air fares are already provided by charter airlines who will also be free to compete, if there is the space at the crowded airports in the new liberal regime coming into force on January 1. The headlong rush into a liberal aviation industry within Europe is not as simple as it is made to sound by politicians — and the airlines are gradually learning that the hard way.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Trotting off to Dalgety

DINNER party conversations will never be the same again for Richard Clothier, Rhodesian-born Dalgety, 47, who for the past four years has been running something called the Pig Improvement Company, will from next June become the chief executive of its parent, Dalgety, the food group. Clothier saw off both internal and external competition to land the job, thereby succeeding Maurice Warren when he retired. Clothier, with Dalgety since 1977, readily admits that his involvement with pigs has never failed him as a conversational line. "You do get interesting questions and they lead to fascinating conversations," he says. Indeed, if our own conversation is anything to go by, it could prove difficult to wean him off. The Pig Improvement Company is, it seems, at the leading edge of "designer" pigs for countries as far afield as the Ukraine. Clothier's favourite, he reveals, is the Camdorough. "It is a very good mother. It produces good litters and it rears them well," he says. It is also PIC's most successful line — more than 500,000 of the creatures are sold each year.

Takeover gremlins

DAVID Williams, chief executive of Usher-Walker, the printing inks specialist that yesterday unveiled a surprise £14.8 million agreed takeover by Sun Chemical Corporation, reveals that at the 11th hour gremlins infiltrated the system. Williams, ex-Mosaic



Investments, was up until 5am finalising the deal and was back at his desk again after breakfast to deal with the anticipated wave of telephone calls from shareholders, institutions and financial press. The switchboard telephones failed to ring, however. Williams's direct line and Usher's fax machine also lay silent. Mobile telephones were also rendered useless when the batteries failed. "I think we were jinxed. First the phone system packed up, then the mobile phones all ran out," Williams is not expected to remain at Usher, other than to oversee the integration, and hints that he will not be absent from the City for long. Already he has, he says, received "at least a few" offers of alternative work.

On ice

THE City's many broomball fans will have to put their broomsticks aside for a couple of weeks because of a leaking refrigeration pipe which has reduced the Broadgate ice rink

to a shallow paddling pool. The American ball game, played in soft shoes instead of skates, has become one of the City's favourite winter sports and the sixth Cheltenham Handicap championship was due to begin tomorrow. It attracted a record 100 entries this year but has now been postponed. Broadgate had offered plastic ice as an alternative, but according to broomball experts that is insufficiently slippery. Broadgate Estates, the property manager, is endeavouring to re-freeze its watery pool and hopes it will be fully operational again by mid-December.

Ecstasy tragedy

AS the Princess of Wales keeps up her tireless campaign against drug addiction, a tragic case illustrating the dangers of drug use is being brought to the City's attention. Jeremy Wood, whose firm Kapitil supplies dealing-room software throughout the Square Mile, has just suffered the loss of his son Ben, 20, who died on Saturday after being given a sample — and single — Ecstasy pill at college.

Wood now wants to convey the dangers to others in the City who have teenage children. "The Princess of Wales says hugging would make children feel wanted, but Ben couldn't have been more loved," Wood says. "He was not a drug addict or from a deprived home. He tried the drug because he was an adventurous, impressionable boy. You only have to have one go for it to be fatal."

Our sympathies go to both him and his wife.

CAROL LEONARD

Ofwat chief promises to help solve disputes on water connection costs

From the director general of Ofwat. Sir, Mr Gordon Glass writes (November 10) about the charges levied by Thames Water for providing a water supply to his premises. Although my office has not received a complaint about the charge of £27,688 to which he refers, I know from complaints we have received that there is concern about the level of these charges which can have a considerable impact, particularly on the costs of new developments.

Such charges consist of two elements. The first is an infrastructure charge, set by the government in 1989, and intended to reflect the costs to the company of adding to its capital stock to cater for new demand. I will be reviewing all the companies' charging limits in 1994 and as part of that review I will be looking at the principle and level of infrastructure charges.

The second element is a charge set by the company for making the connection to the water main and associated works — such as installing the stopcock and the company's part of the service pipe.

Cloud over Thames

From Mr Stanley Hill

Sir, In your edition of November 4 (business section), you show a large picture of the chairman (Sir Roy Watts) and the chief executive (Mike Hoffman) of Thames Water, celebrating over their drinks of water. They are celebrating the increase in profits, apparently, not the large increase in water charges, which made it possible and which is to be repeated next year.

Maybe they were also celebrating the fact that the profit on their personal share options had increased in the last two months by £100,000 to £375,000 and by £140,000 to £515,000 respectively. It is good going. They can begin to realise on these profits from early 1993.

Yours faithfully, STANLEY WM. HILL, Arthur Collins & Co., Advisers on Finance of Public Authorities in UK & Abroad, 35c Tranquil Vale, Blackheath, SE3.

Ofwat chief promises to help solve disputes on water connection costs

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The second element is a charge set by the company for making the connection to the water main and associated works — such as installing the stopcock and the company's part of the service pipe.

Parliament has given me new powers to determine a range of disputes, including those relating to the costs of making water connections and associated works. These powers took effect on September 1. If a customer is unable to resolve a dispute about connection costs with his water company he should write to me and I will determine whether the charges levied are reasonable. My determination is binding on both parties.

Yours faithfully, I C R BYATT, Director General, Ofwat, Office of Water Services, Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham.

Campaign to put sparkle back into Oxford Street and help charity

From Mr Giles Robertson

Sir, I write in response to your article (November 17) about dropping sales in Oxford Street. I wish to outline a project that has been developed to draw people back to Oxford Street for a good reason. An innovative joint venture with Save The Children Fund and the Oxford Street retailers' association has created a campaign intended to give people an added reason for shopping in Oxford Street during the Christmas period. The project is intended to raise money for Save The Children Fund through collection tins in and around the stores in Oxford Street, at the same time as generating excitement through the campaign and, in addition, to help retailers through a difficult year by attracting people to the world's most famous shopping street.

A logo has been developed to give a recognisable face to the project, which has been incorporated in posters and special shopping bags (featuring a paperchain of cut-out children from an A-Z map of the Oxford Street area, with the message "Oxford Street for Save The Children"). At Saatchi & Saatchi we have created the logo and advertising and through our media department, Zenith, managed to

secure hugely reduced media costs for running all these ads.

Linford Christie turned on the Oxford Street lights for Save The Children in Selfridges, and acknowledged the outstanding work done by the charity. This event received considerable press and radio coverage, which helped our project considerably. Over the Christmas period there are a number of specific events, such as a carol concert, to tie in with the Save The Children fund-raising campaign.

So far the project has been very successful and we are all very pleased with how it is going. There are still a number of weeks before the project

ends. A walk along Oxford Street shows the profile our project has achieved with posters, collection tins, stickers and special shopping bags. For us and Save The Children it would be a great help if in the future, when discussing Oxford Street retailers, you could mention the marvellous work that has gone into the project and also how successful it has been. It is not all gloom in Oxford Street.

Yours faithfully, GILES ROBERTSON, Account Executive, Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, Registered Office, 80 Charlotte Street, W1.

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on 3rd December 1992

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Late rally

Portfolio

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG.				
23	APR	173		58 18 1
22	Arto Wagon	195		58 18 1
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20	Arto Wagon	195		58 18 1
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1	Arto Wagon	195		58 18 1

88	Cap & Bridge	91	..	1.0	1.5	..
75	Cardiff Prop	130	..	2.4	2.5	39.2
203	Chatterfield	148	..	18.5	..	34.0

City Star Line	25	0.3	1.6	2.0
Chloro-Kwikolite	12	0.2	0.2	2.0
Clayton	11	0.2	0.2	2.0
Decca	815	0.2	20.0	4.1 12.7
Dated Ranges	71	0.2	0.2	2.0
Generalized Time	4	0.2	0.2	2.0
De Morgan	4	0.2	0.2	2.0

100	Swan Of Lochs	131	-3	4-1	43	27
110	Free Oaks	18				
120	Spencer King	30	...	1-0	6-4	24
130	Progressive	260	-4	15-0	7-4	163
140	Grassroots	71	...	3-4	4-0	23
150	Gr Portland	110	-6	10-0	11-5	31
160	Greyhound	19	...	8-2		
170	HK Land	112	-3		4-3	104
180	Harbort Cayes	30	...	5-0	6-2	
190	Harmonet	261	-3	10-1	4-1	119

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7	Michigan A	3			
7	Michigan B	3			
7	Michigan C	3			
7	Michigan D	3			
7	Michigan E	3			
7	Michigan F	3			
7	Michigan G	3			
7	Michigan H	3			
7	Michigan I	3			
7	Michigan J	3			
7	Michigan K	3			
7	Michigan L	3			
7	Michigan M	3			
7	Michigan N	3			
7	Michigan O	3			
7	Michigan P	3			
7	Michigan Q	3			
7	Michigan R	3			
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7	Michigan AF	3			
7	Michigan AG	3			
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7	Michigan AI	3			
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7	Michigan AQ	3			
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7	Michigan AS	3			
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42	Hendricks	79	+1	3.4	41	2.0
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79	Pizard Gargay	29	...	1.5	17	0.9

Shipping & Freight		1910		1911	
100	Alfred Teat	266	67	121	62
101	Richard 90	267	67	121	62
102	Richard 70	268	67	121	62
103	Richard 50	269	67	121	62
104	Richard 30	270	67	121	62
105	Richard 10	271	67	121	62
106	Richard 00	272	67	121	62
107	Richard 80	273	67	121	62
108	Richard 60	274	67	121	62
109	Richard 40	275	67	121	62
110	Richard 20	276	67	121	62
111	Richard 00	277	67	121	62
112	Richard 80	278	67	121	62
113	Richard 60	279	67	121	62
114	Richard 40	280	67	121	62
115	Richard 20	281	67	121	62
116	Richard 00	282	67	121	62
117	Richard 80	283	67	121	62
118	Richard 60	284	67	121	62
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121	Richard 00	287	67	121	62
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124	Richard 40	290	67	121	62
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131	Richard 00	297	67	121	62
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136	Richard 00	302	67	121	62
137	Richard 80	303	67	121	62
138	Richard 60	304	67	121	62
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146	Richard 00	312	67	121	62
147	Richard 80	313	67	121	62
148	Richard 60	314	67	121	62
149	Richard 40	315	67	121	62
150	Richard 20	316	67	121	62
151	Richard 00	317	67	121	62
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154	Richard 40	320	67	121	62
155	Richard 20	321	67	121	62
156	Richard 00	322	67	121	62
157	Richard 80	323	67	121	62
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159	Richard 40	325	67	121	62
160	Richard 20	326	67	121	62
161	Richard 00	327	67	121	62
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165	Richard 20	331	67	121	62
166	Richard 00	332	67	121	62
167					

TOBACCO					
608 BAT	952	+26	35.6	47	25.1

TRANSPORT							
211	Atlantic de France	318	4	8	34	461	
212	BAA	733	8	15	25	126	59
213	Br Airways	727	1	8	10	126	59
214	Canadian Pac	23	1	8	10	126	59
215	Charles Gleanman	23	1	8	10	126	59
216	Companie Air	23	1	8	10	126	59
217	Continental	23	1	8	10	126	59
218	Deutsche Luf	23	1	8	10	126	59
219	Imperial Airways	23	1	8	10	126	59
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265	Imperial Airways	23	1	8	10	126	59
266	Imperial Airways	23	1	8	10	126	59
26							

336	Northumbrian	500	+ 2	20.5	6.9	5.7
323	North West	502	+ 2	19.6	5.2	6.7
288	Southern Tiers	474	+ 4	19.3	5.4	7.0

301	Staten W	400	+ 4	19.5	5.4	5.0
670	20 South	1190	...	-0.2	4.3	6.1
304	24th W	510	+	2.7	3.7	7.1
336	Thomas W	493	+ 3	21.4	3.7	6.3
337	Wash Water	559	0	2.1	4.6	4.8
338	Wash Water	892	0	2.1	4.6	4.8
339	Yorkshire W	532	- 2	19.3	4.9	5.0

Price at suspension; LEx dividend; LEx
 Ex right; LEx alt; LEx capital
 den; # figures or report omitted; ... No
 net date.

Suitable case for treatment by the subtle doctor

Italy is facing its hardest economic and political decisions for decades. John Phillips assesses the chances of recovery in the face of separatist pressures and the need for unpopular austerity

As Italy passes through the greatest political turbulence it has experienced in at least a decade, Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, is battling tenaciously to forge a durable administration from his five-month-old government.

Initially, most observers saw his coalition of Socialists, Christian Democrats, Liberals and Social Democrats as a cabinet of transition. But the achievements of Signor Amato, a 54-year-old socialist economist, have been impressive when compared with the immobility of his predecessor, Giulio Andreotti, the veteran Christian Democrat.

Parliament is expected to complete ahead of schedule its approval of his 1993 austerity budget, designed to raise revenue and cut spending by the equivalent of £44 billion, together with a law authorising the government to make sweeping reforms of the welfare state. This should enable Italy to qualify for a European Community loan worth £8 billion to help Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the highly respected governor of the Bank of Italy, to replenish funds depleted before the 7 per cent devaluation in September.

Confidence in the lira, freely floating outside the EC's exchange-rate mechanism, has revived. Trade-union threats to renege on a historic agreement, brokered by the government in July, abolishing the inflationary wage indexation system, the *scala mobile*, have so far produced only sporadic strikes. An ambitious privatisation programme has begun.

Signor Amato, known to the press as *Dottore Sottile* (Dr Subtle), is determined to soldier on with the Herculean task of trying to meet

Maastricht convergence targets on curbing government spending and on reining in Italy's public debt, which exceeds gross domestic product for the first time in a peacetime European economy since 1924.

Will Signor Amato survive to pursue his mission? Politicians across the spectrum have been loath to threaten the government's 16-seat majority while the vital budget package is in the works. Now, however, some party grandees, within and outside the coalition, believe that the alliance should



Giuliano Amato: "Dr Subtle"

be widened or Signor Amato challenged, despite his successes.

He needs all the help he can find. There is no doubt that Italy is undergoing its worst psychological crisis since the terrorist threat of the late 1970s and early 1980s. As if economic malady were not enough, the state this year has faced the fiercest challenge yet from organised crime in the south, culminating in the savage assassination of two judges, Giovanni

Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, the top anti-Mafia investigators.

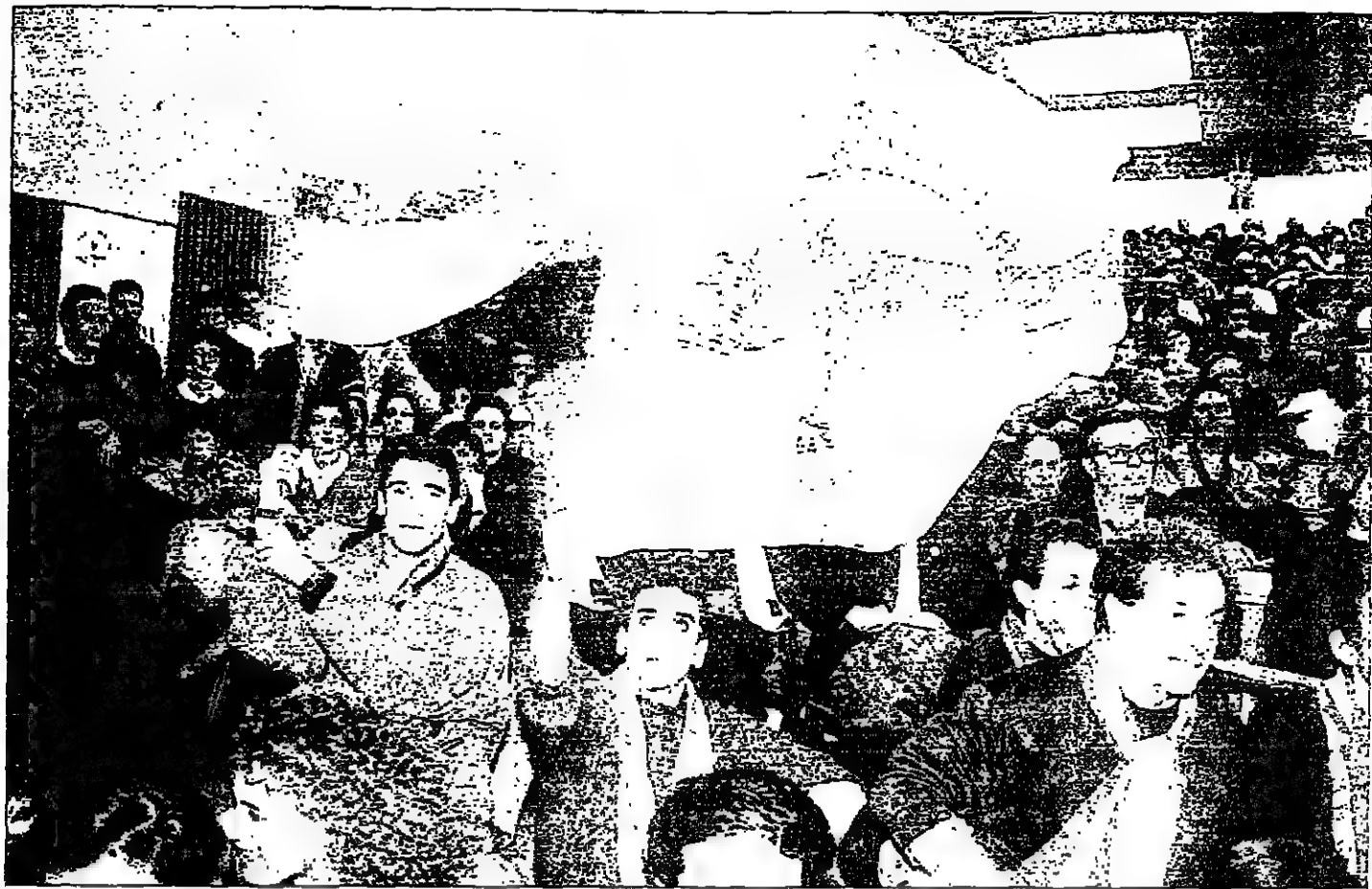
At the same time the vast corruption scandal that has erupted in Milan has deeply undermined public confidence in traditional parties.

Magistrates who risk their lives against the Mafia and political bribery have emerged as the new heroes of Italy. This is combined with disillusionment with the political system, and that has given the devolutionist Northern League some spectacular electoral successes. In the view of many foreign observers in Rome, the eventual disintegration of Italy, while unlikely, is not inconceivable unless deep electoral and institutional reforms are quickly implemented.

The strongest argument advanced by Signor Amato's supporters for his remaining in office is that there is no obvious credible alternative. No other mainstream politician relishes the grim prospect of whipping the economy into shape by dismantling the health service and laying off workers in lame-duck state-run companies.

The painful path to economic health will probably last three years. If Signor Amato's government is defeated in that period, before he is able to put his budget package into effect, there might be a new run on the lira. But there is growing evidence that Italians are increasingly questioning whether a coalition of parties that have ruled Italy profitably for decades is reforming fast enough.

The local election in September in the province of Mantova, which gave the Lombardy League and Umberto Bossi, its leader, a stunning victory, has been seen as a watershed. Similar polls to be held in Varese, Signor Bossi's



Flying its own flag: the sensational electoral success of the Lombardy League has highlighted the need for urgent political reform

home town, and Monza next month are expected to have a similar outcome.

Disillusionment with the political system was already clear in the general election in April, when for the first time the Christian Democrats received less than 30 per cent of the national vote. The Lombardy League won 50 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 25 in the Senate. *La Rete* (network), the anti-Mafia party led by Leoluca Orlando, a crusading former mayor of Palermo, won first place in the Sicilian capital.

The corruption scandal in Milan has led to the arrest of nearly 100 politicians and businessmen since February and has severely tarnished the image of both the Christian Democrats and the Socialists. Signor Amato's reputation for honesty has been insufficient to revive their fortunes. The government parties could probably not now muster a parliamentary majority if President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro called a new general election.

Signor Amato was a popular figure when he took office, but there has inevitably been grum-

bling over such measures as a one-off tax on bank accounts and new taxation of property. He was perhaps seen as *must simpatico* when he took the unusual step for a politician of going so far as to apologise publicly for presenting devaluation as a triumph.

Signor Amato's greatest weakness is perhaps his long-standing personal link to Bettino Craxi, the former prime minister and secretary of the Socialist party. Signor Craxi has suffered a big drop in popularity since the Milan corruption investigation implicated his brother-in-law and other close associates.

The government hopes that popular yearning for change will be assuaged by reforms under consideration by a bicameral parliamentary committee formed in July. Socialists, Christian Democrats and representatives of the Democratic Party of the Left, formerly the Communist party, have agreed tentatively in the committee on reform of the proportional representation system.

Ciriaco De Mita, the committee chairman, who is a former president of the Christian Democrat party, has said that it also favours

widespread institutional reforms, including the German-style election of the prime minister by parliament and the transformation of the senate into a quasi-federalist "council of regions". The committee is reported to envisage neutralising the devolutionist appeal of the northern leagues by creating a "regional state", with tax-raising powers transferred to regional governments.

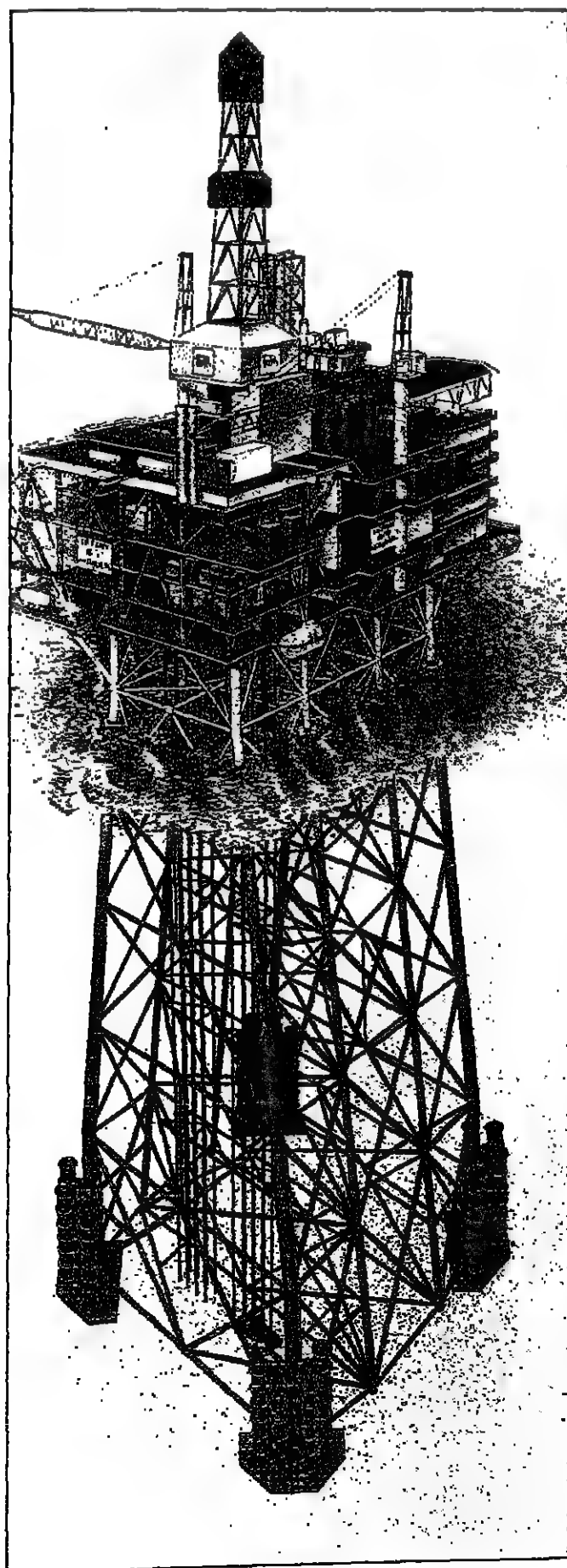
Stubborn opposition to these plans is coming within the committee from Mario Segni, the Christian Democrat maverick who pushed for political reform by organising a constitutional referendum in June 1991. That led to the abolition of the notorious system of preference voting that allowed the Mafia to provide blocks of votes to politicians.

Signor Segni is an admirer of the British first-past-the-post system and believes electoral reform should be more radical than Signor De Mita proposes. He and his supporters in a cross-party parliamentary pact have obtained preliminary court approval for new referendums, to be held next June.

Signor Segni has had partial success in galvanising the Christian Democrats on electoral reform. Mino Martinazzoli, their new party chairman, may come round to supporting the referendums to keep Signor Segni within the party. Alternatively, he may expel him, which would cause a party schism. Either way, Signor Segni is widely regarded as the most serious alternative to Signor Amato as prime minister in the medium term.

As the extent of the parlous state of the economy sinks into public consciousness, there is a growing realisation that Italy runs the risk of being shunted into the second rank of a two-tier Europe. Many leaders of the leagues believe that the rich north is ready to meet EC criteria and should go into the European monetary union on its own, leaving the impoverished south, the Mezzogiorno, behind if necessary.

Signor Amato's determined five months in office have taken Italy into the foothills of the trenchant economic policy required to meet EC convergence targets. However, the future of the republic remains more unpredictable than at any time since the communist surge of the mid-1970s.



AGIP 65 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE PROJECTED INTO THE FUTURE

The leading Italian oil company operates in the U.K. through its subsidiary Agip (U.K.) Limited

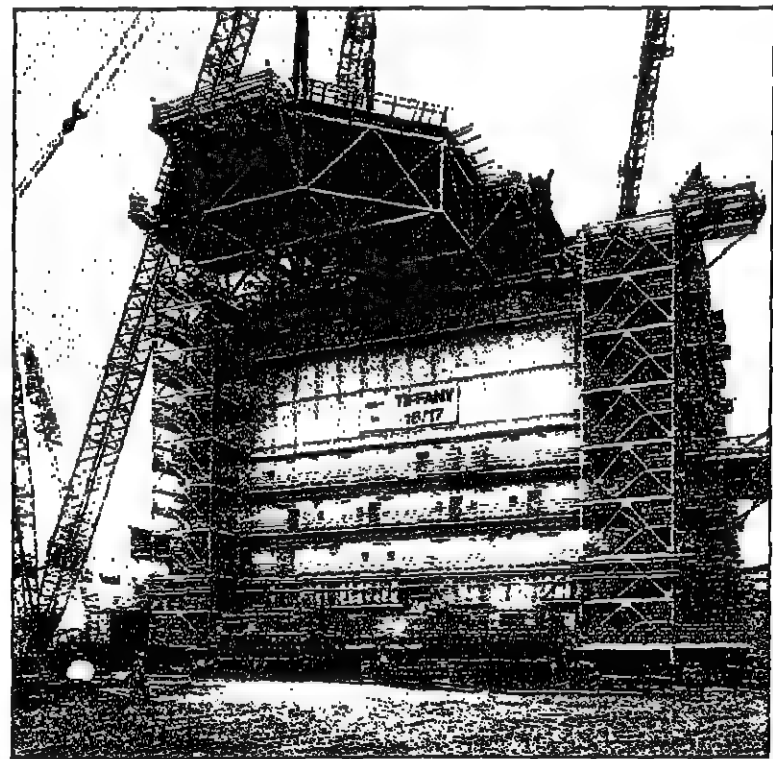
Almost sixty-five years have gone by since Agip, a major company within the Italian ENI Group, started its activity in exploration and production of hydrocarbons and today, through a policy of continuous development, Agip is active in 27 countries of 4 continents from Norway to China, from the Congo to the USA, from the U.K. to Nigeria.

Since 1964 Agip has been present in the United Kingdom through its subsidiary Agip (U.K.) Limited. Since then, the latter has participated in 54 joint venture developments, is now the operator of 4 licences, has joint interests with twelve other oil companies both in exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons and is currently producing from five fields, namely Hewett, Maureen, Claymore, Audrey and Moira.

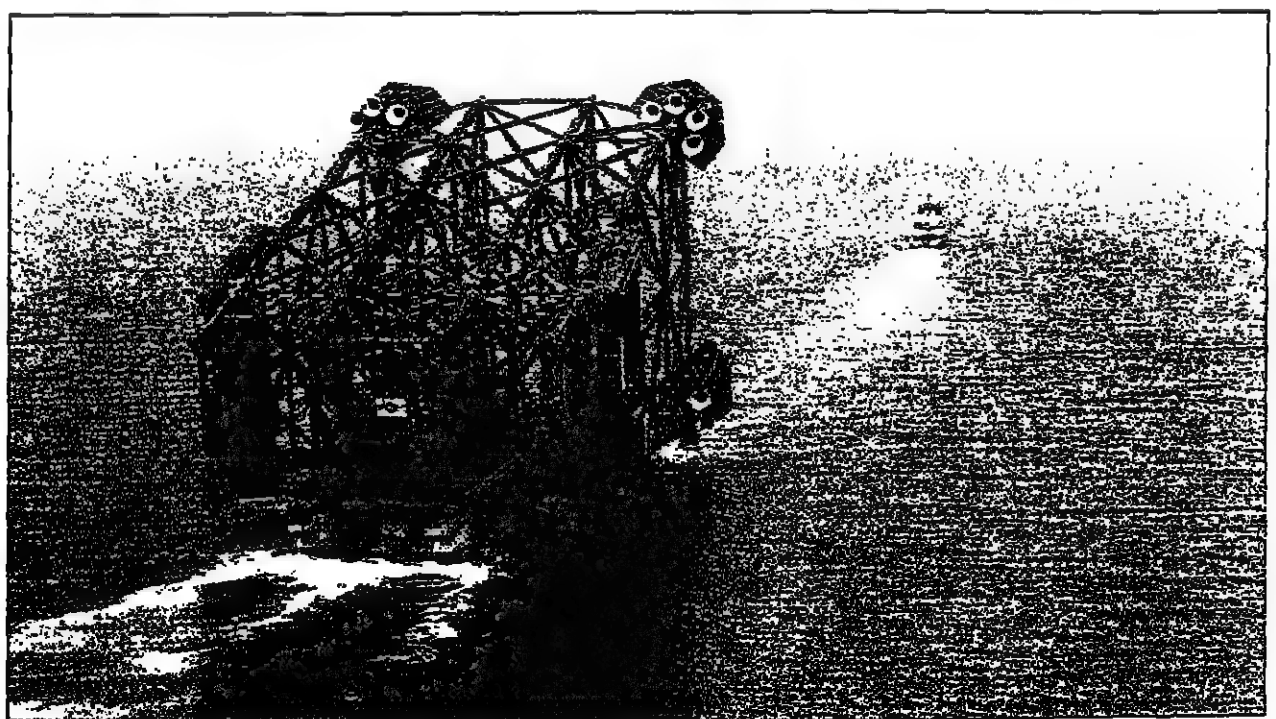
A significant step forward occurred when it acquired the operatorship of the T-Block Field comprising of 4 discoveries namely Tiffany, Toni,

Thelma and South East Thelma. The decision to develop the field in partnership with Fina, British Gas and Lasmo has required a rapid growth in the employment pattern and resources of Agip (U.K.) in order to achieve the target of starting production in 1993. At that stage, Agip (U.K.) will have entered a new and significant phase in its evolution, thereby becoming a production operator.

Agip AgipUK



Tiffany accommodation module



Platform for Tiffany field

Tiffany jacket under tow

War on the Mafia, by popular demand

Mafia assassinations this summer of two judges, Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, created an unprecedented popular revolt against the organisation that has forced the Italian state at last to give priority to the battle against organised crime.

A package of tough new anti-Mafia measures has been approved by parliament, including greater encouragement and protection for supergrasses, wider telephone-tapping powers for the police and steps to enable them to infiltrate the Mafia-style organisations. Bruno Sicari, a senior magistrate, has been appointed to the newly created post of "super-prosecutor", and the Direzione Investigativa Anti-Mafia, the new national anti-Mafia police force, has been put on a stronger footing.

Troops were deployed on the streets of Palermo immediately after the second murder, and a total of 7,000 paratroops and other elite soldiers have now gone into action on the island. In a return to the tactics used by Mussolini in the 1920s, scores of Mafia bosses have been flown from Ucciardone jail in Palermo to

Two murders forced Italy to fight organised crime as a priority, writes John Phillips

Pianosa, a remote penal island off Tuscany.

Judge Falcone was killed by a bomb that exploded under the road as he drove to Palermo on May 23, together with his wife, Francesca, herself a magistrate. Judge Borsellino was killed by a radio-controlled car bomb in Palermo on July 19. Since then, the troops, lacking local knowledge, have been unable to strike a decisive blow against the island crime gangs, but their presence has reduced petty crime and boosted public morale.

In September, police had a success when they arrested Giuseppe Madonia, reputed to be second in command of the Sicilian Mafia and the right-hand man on the Sicilian Mafia's ruling committee, led by Salvatore "Totò" Riina,

who has been on the run for 25 years. Lilliana Ferraro, who succeeded Judge Falcone as the director-general for criminal affairs after the magistrate was murdered, has cautioned that such successes against organised crime should not be overestimated. The authorities were lulled into a false sense of security in the 1980s after Judge Falcone put 2,000 Mafia bosses behind bars in a series of large trials.

The dangers of lowering the guard were illustrated this month when his men killed two businessmen who refused to pay protection money and denounced the extortionists to police. In Foggia in Apulia, Giovanni Panunzio, known as *l'imprenditore coraggioso* (entrepreneur courage) was shot dead on November 6 as he drove home, and in the Sicilian resort of Gela, Gaetano Giordano, a perfume-shop

owner, who also testified against extortionists rather than pay the *pizzo*, was gunned down on November 10. His son was seriously wounded in the attack.

These events led to a new

demonstration of the strength of the popular revolt against the traditional Mafia code of *omertà*, or silence. Five thousand people, many of them school students, marched through Gela last week in protest.

One banner said: "We are not afraid of the violent, but of the silence of the honest." The demonstration recalled the turnout of tens of thousands during the funerals of Judges Falcone and Borsellino.



Public mourning and anger: the crowds turn out for the funeral of Judge Paolo Borsellino

in Palermo. Many mourners were supporters of Leoluca Orlando, the courageous former mayor of the Sicilian capital, whose new anti-Mafia party, *La Rete*, came first in Palermo in the general election in April. Signor Orlando, a 45-year-old lawyer, won the second highest number of votes of any politician in Italy.

Signor Orlando has criticised government policy, saying the measures taken will leave the Mafia virtually unscathed unless the traditional links between *Cosa Nostra* and the old political parties in Rome are severed, and the kingpins on the run whose whereabouts are known are rounded up. *La Rete* made further political gains in September's local elections.

The party's candidates will have another opportunity next year, when the people of Catania, Sicily's second city, will elect their mayor directly for the first time. Signor Orlando wants to return to Palermo as mayor when local elections are held there, probably next year.

Traditional political patronage by the Mafia of politicians from mainstream parties in the south is perhaps the most difficult weapon of the Mafia to combat. A start was made before the April general elec-

tion with the abolition of the old preferential voting system that helped Mafia bosses to guarantee politicians "packets" of votes in return for favours.

The extent to which parliament undertakes further serious electoral reform will influence the outcome of the battle against organised crime.

Agostino Cordova, another courageous magistrate, is pursuing an investigation in Calabria into the links between Mafia-style organisations throughout Italy, illegal masonic lodges and politicians.

A report by Palermo magistrates on the killing in March of Salvatore Lima, for decades the most powerful Christian Democrat politician in Sicily, decided he was murdered because he no longer collaborated with *Cosa Nostra*.

The report quoted a supergrass, Leonardo Messina, as saying Signor Lima was the intermediary between the Mafia and Giulio Andreotti, prime minister until April. Signor Andreotti has denied any links to *Cosa Nostra* and defended Signor Lima's reputation. He and other politicians are to testify before the anti-Mafia committee in parliament later this year.

Meanwhile, Italy has made progress in obtaining greater co-operation against the *Cosa Nostra* from other European Community countries, which will be vulnerable to the Mafia in a single European market. In September, the European Community's justice ministers met in London to form an ad hoc committee to fight the Mafia.

In fear of a refugee flood

The Balkan conflict, not the Maastricht treaty, is the biggest worry facing the nation

The travails of the lira within the European Community's exchange-rate mechanism in September, and its forced departure, heightened awareness in Italy of the price the country may have to pay in diminished sovereignty if it is to meet the EC's convergence targets. For Italians generally, however, the Balkan tragedy is more perturbing than the negative aspects of the Maastricht treaty, John Phillips writes.

Public concern over television footage of the shelling of Dubrovnik and other outrages led Italy to offer 1,200 troops for peacekeeping over Maastricht. Carlo De Benedetti, the chairman of Olivetti, has said the treaty should be rewritten to take into account the present deflationary cycle in the world economy and the high cost of German reunification.

Italy has already paid a high price for its contribution to easing the Balkan conflict. A Yugoslav federal air force MIG shot down a helicopter carrying EC observers (four Italian and one French) over Croatia on January 7, killing all five. On September 3, an Italian relief plane was shot down near Sarajevo, and four crewmen killed. Italy then suspended its aid flights to Sarajevo, but it will provide logistical support, such as fuelling and airport facilities, for UN forces.

Meanwhile, officials remember only too well the disorder that broke out when 18,000 Albanians arrived by ship last year at Bari, and fear that Croatia may try to send Bosnian Muslims to the Italian coast. Italy declared a state of emergency in May to deal with Bosnian refugees arriving by land in Trieste via Slovenia, but the influx there has been limited.

Albania continues to cause great concern. About 1,000 Italian troops are still engaged in a relief operation there with the aim of improving conditions and stemming the flow of refugees.

Italy now has as much influence over the country as it had in the early 1930s, diplomatic sources say. With the approval of the Tirana authorities, Italian navy ships prowled on close patrol off the Albanian coast in search of vessels carrying clandestine immigrants.

EC diplomacy is plain sailing by comparison. The alacrity with which ratifica-

tion of the Maastricht treaty passed through parliament reflects the unquestioning support of most Italians for a United States of Europe of some kind.

Cynics say the prospect of government from Brussels attracts Italians because they despair at the quality of rule from Rome. Government from Brussels is considered less corrupt and more efficient, but also perhaps more easily circumvented. Many Italian intellectuals also see Europe as an anchor against possible future attempts to revert to authoritarian rule.

Dissenting voices have nevertheless been raised over Maastricht. Carlo De Benedetti, the chairman of Olivetti, has said the treaty should be rewritten to take into account the present deflationary cycle in the world economy and the high cost of German reunification. Achille Occhetto, leader of the Democratic Party of the Left, formerly the Communist party, has also called for renegotiation and spoken out against what he called the "dicta of Maastricht" pushing the government into austerity measures. As the extent of the painful economic measures needed to meet EC convergence targets becomes clear, more Italians may decide that they would prefer to be in a "second division" of Europe that stops short of full monetary union.

Commentators point out that the impact of a single European market on employment in inefficient industries such as banking and pharmaceuticals may be traumatic.

In the past, Italy was often a net beneficiary from EC funds through the agricultural policy and regional aid. It is likely to be a net contributor for the next seven years, and this may erode *comunautaire* attitudes.

There is little enthusiasm in Italy for the principle of subsidiarity, and concern has been publicly expressed over the delays to British ratification of Maastricht. Yet relations between Britain and Italy remain warm. Giuliano Amato has quickly struck up a friendship with John Major, whom he has described as Europe's most *simpatico* leader. He particularly enjoys Mr Major's impersonations of Margaret Thatcher.

Amato likes to see Major doing imitations of Mrs Thatcher

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There is cautious optimism that the Amato government is taking the right course, but industry is having to tighten its belt as a result

Now the cuts start to bite

The drastic steps being taken by the coalition government of Giuliano Amato to try to put the Italian economy back on an even keel include spending cuts, particularly on pensions and health services, increased taxes virtually across the board and a renewed offensive against tax evasion.

In addition, the wage indexation system, the *scala mobile*, or moving staircase, which was one of the prime victories of the unions at the height of their power in the 1970s, has been practically abolished to keep inflation down and production costs on a par with Italy's international competitors.

The government is also planning sweeping privatisations of state-controlled companies and financial institutions.

Like sterling, the lira came under international pressure in mid Sep-

tember, when it was devalued by 7 per cent and forced out of the bottom of the European Community's exchange-rate mechanism (ERM). Subsequently, on the free market it lost a further 20 per cent against the Deutschmark, then gradually floated back to about 12 per cent below its pre-devaluation exchange rate.

The government has vowed that the lira will take its place again in the ERM by the end of this year. This will largely depend, however, on the effectiveness of radical economic measures, many of which are struggling for parliamentary approval. Most economists believe

it will be six months or more before the lira can return to what remains of the ERM.

The coalition's "economic manoeuvre", as it is known in Italy, has been generally applauded by Italian and other European analysts, but usually with the comment that it is only just enough at present and will soon have to be reinforced.

Further spending cuts are thought necessary because tax pressure on Italians has reached almost Scandinavian levels, although public services and infrastructure most certainly do not match those of the northern countries.

The Amato government is doing

today what independent economists and the analysts in the Bank of Italy have been recommending for at least ten years. Past governments have been too weak to take the radical measures necessary.

In simple terms, Italy has lived beyond its means for many years, and only the international pressure of the Maastricht agreement, coupled with the threat that Italy could easily drop ignominiously out of the Europe of tomorrow, enabled the Amato government to take the necessary steps without provoking a mass revolt by the unions and a col-

lapse of the governing coalition.

There is cautious optimism that the government has moved in the right direction. Crucial, permanent changes in the country's economic structure are being made, which will better equip Italy to compete. There is also, however, scepticism about whether the new tax increases will actually bring in all the expected revenue, and about how the huge and cumbersome apparatus of state involvement in the economy can be quickly rationalised.

It is certain that 1993 will be a grim year for Italians, who will have to hope that 1994 will be

better. Industrial production fell by 3.7 per cent in the year to August 1992. Unemployment is rising steadily in industry, with signs that it will soon also affect the tertiary sector, including services, which accounts for about 60 per cent of the economy.

Virtually all the big Italian companies, from giants like Fiat and Olivetti to small but prestigious firms such as Maserati and Ferrari, are laying off employees. So far, they are being supported by the state's *Cassa integrazione*, which guarantees 80 per cent of wages for periods up to a year, but there is a danger that Italy will soon find it-

self with a new army of unemployed poor, a potentially explosive political fuel. Even though the Bank of Italy lowered its discount rate last week, interest rates of 14-16 per cent do not help the economy to invest and develop.

Estimates of how long the crisis will last vary. Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the governor of the Bank of Italy, has said that the next six months will be crucial, but that if wages and prices can be held down, a recovery will follow.

Gianni Agnelli, the president of Fiat, has spoken in terms of "holding our breath for a year and a half". Many economists think in terms of 18 months or two years, but also point out more optimistically that the current crisis is a golden opportunity to restructure the Italian system for the better.

PAUL BOMPARD

Cost of borrowing is the main burden

After the boom years of the 1980s, the global recession is beginning to have a belated impact in Italy, and there is trepidation in industry at the prospects of pan-European competition and the privatisation of a highly indebted and often inefficient public sector.

Employers are burdened by higher than ever taxes on profits and a cost of borrowing that is now about 20 per cent for most businesses. "The real cost of money has no precedent in Italy and no equivalent on the international scene," Confindustria, the employers' organisation, complains.

The recession, coupled with the government's tough tax policy, has already been felt in the car sector. A Ferrari, once the ultimate success symbol for Italians, is no longer as desirable as it once was.

The enthusiasm of potential clients has been dampened by a new tax on luxury items and by the knowledge that the tax authorities use ownership as a gauge of presumed income. So the Ferrari management has decided to reduce production by 1,100 vehicles this year by temporarily laying off a third of the workforce in November and December.

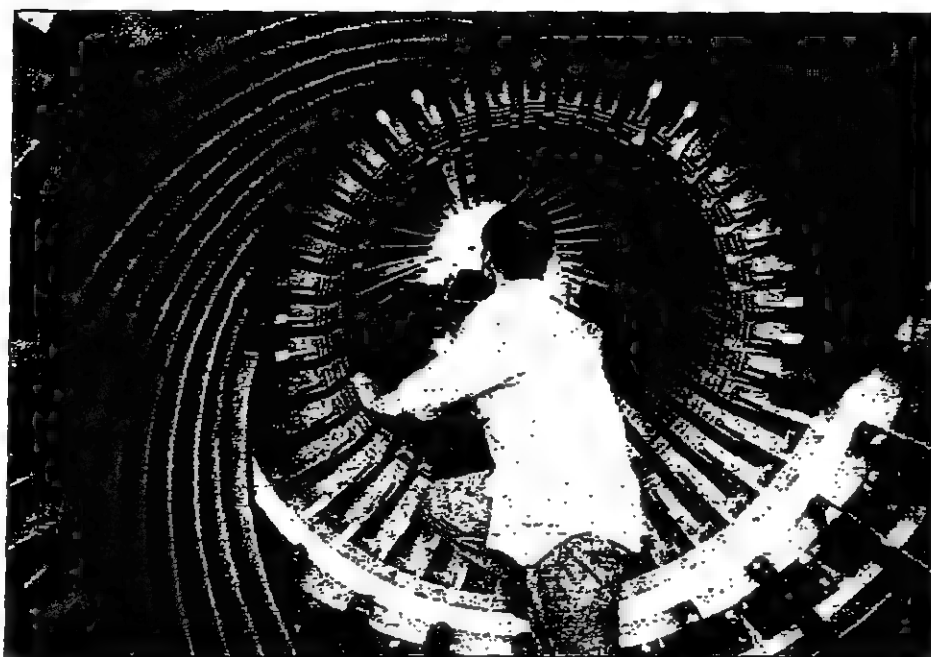
Fiat, the biggest private sector company in Italy, is also cutting production. The car-

maker announced it would be laying off 38,000 employees for two weeks in December so it could cut production by 1,000 vehicles. Profits have slumped this year as Fiat has been in a price war with European competitors to protect its 44 per cent share of the Italian market.

The main threat, however, is likely to come from Japan, although it has only 3.3 per cent of the Italian car market. Japanese market penetration is restricted by a bilateral agreement dating from the 1950s, but when Europe becomes an entirely free market in 1999 that protection will cease and Fiat will face a severe challenge, particularly in the small car market where it and Japan are strongest. To prepare for that day, Fiat is planning to invest £13 billion over a five-year period, during which it will unveil 18 new models.

The downturn has also been felt in the petrochemicals sector, where Montedison has announced it will be pulling out of sports sponsorship to concentrate on its core activities. The company, part of the privately owned Ferruzzi agro-industrial group, recently agreed to set up a joint venture with Shell to produce plastics and polymers.

The group is the largest private energy generator in



Industry's need to be competitive: a new turbine engine at an Ansaldo plant in Genoa

Italy. Carlo Sama, the managing director, says it aims to boost electricity generation to 15 billion kilowatt hours, "more than the annual consumption of a country such as Ireland".

The information technology sector is intensely competitive at the moment, with a colossus like IBM in trouble and Fujitsu announcing its first

losses for 40 years. Olivetti, which is Europe's largest manufacturer of personal computers, is also feeling the strain. Carlo De Benedetti, its chairman, took over direct management control of the company a year ago to try to steer it out of trouble.

At the end of June Digital, the US giant, chose Olivetti as its strategic partner in Europe,

and -10 per cent from software and services. In future, it intends to concentrate increasingly on software.

The past 12 months have been particularly tough for the construction industry, with the recession, a decline in government spending and a massive corruption scandal. An investigation into the payment of kickbacks on public construction contracts has led to the arrest of numerous leading figures. Among those who have spent long periods in prison are Enzo Papi, the managing director of Cogefar-Impretit, the Fiat-owned construction company, and Salvatore Ligresti, the construction magnate based in Milan, who is one of the richest men in the country.

Once, the national builders' association, expects a 1 per cent decline in building investment this year and a 3 per cent shrinkage in 1993. Public works, set back by government spending cuts, are likely to be reduced by 7 per cent this year and 6 per cent the next.

"The corruption scandal has had a small influence, but the fundamental problem is the lack of funds," a spokesman said. "The cost of money has reached unbearable levels, both for construction companies and home buyers."

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EXHIBITION CALENDAR FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 1993

JANUARY

- 9-10
Esposizione Internazionale Canina di Milano
Dogs
- 21-25
Chibicar
Gift articles, fancy goods, perfumery items, costume jewellery and smokers' accessories
- 21-25
Cart
Stationery, paper related products, articles for schools and fine arts
- 23-27
31° Salone Internazionale del Giocattolo
Toys
- January
Milano Collezione Uomo
Men's wear

FEBRUARY

- 5-8
Macef Primavera
Household articles, crystalware, ceramics, gift articles, silverware, jewellery, precious and semiprecious stones, watches, household articles of quality, small electric appliances
- 7-9
Mias Invernale
Sports-wear, sport articles and camping equipment
- Lacchiarella, South Pavilion
- 19-22
Miflor
Cut-flower and ornamental plant production, horticultural equipment and accessories
- Lacchiarella, South Pavilion
- 24-28
BIT
Tourism
- February
Modit Milanovendemoda: La moda a Milano
Women's wear

26 February - 1 March
Salone del Franchising
Franchising and new techniques in the tertiary sector

MARCH

- 6-11
Milano Collezione
Women's wear
- 9-12
I.CO.GRAPHICS
Computer graphics application in production, engineering and management
- 9-13
Tau Expo
Technology for environmental and human protection, fire-fighting, civil defence
- 11-15
Sicof
Cine-photo-optical, audiovisual products and photofinishing equipment
- 11-15
Didattica
Equipment and materials for didactics
- 19-22
63° Mipel
Leather goods
- 24-28
29° Comispel
Fur and leather wear
- 24-28
Tutti a Bordo: Fiera & Festa della Nautica
Equipment and accessories for boating
- 25-28
Salone dello Studente - Campus Orienta
School and training courses guidance
- 26-28
Milano Fil
Philatelics
- 27-29
Bike Trends
Components for bicycles
- March
Moda In
Textiles and accessories
- Lacchiarella, South Pavilion
- March
Conter T/A
Textiles, clothing
- March
Internazionale d'arte contemporanea
Contemporary art

Fiera Milano disclaims all responsibility for any variations in the programme

مكتبة الأصل

Industry born out of defeat

A retrospective exhibition at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence this summer celebrated the birth of Italian fashion 40 years ago. A billion-dollar industry was born out of the wreckage of defeat. Italy was then a Third World nation.

Yet within 15 years the Italians realised an economic miracle: today the clothing, textile and footwear industry represents the country's largest, in terms of turnover, employment and export earnings. The sector's exports amounted in 1990 to 11 per cent of the country's total exports, generating a credit balance of 18,400 billion lire (about £8.9 billion). The turnover of Italy's clothing industry comes only after those of the United States, Japan and Germany.

Italians do not associate fashion with frivolity. For them, it is of central importance for two reasons: considerable fortunes have been amassed on the backs of successful fashions, and Italian men care strongly about how their women dress. Their top designers — Armani, Valentino, Versace — are institutions whose names slip off the tongue of Italians with the same reverential admiration as those of Leonardo da Vinci or Gianni Agnelli.

Forty years ago, however, Italian designers simply copied Paris fashions. Toiles (patterns) were bought from the famous houses, such as Dior, and replicated because the nobody dared to challenge the supremacy of France. Nobody, that is, until in 1952 Giovanni Battista Giorgini, a far-sighted Florentine entrepreneur, galvanised his compatriots by staging two fashion shows in Florence, the first in his

own house, the second in the Pitti palace.

As a middleman selling Italian accessories to American department stores, Signor Giorgini had recognised the emergence of a new phenomenon there, the working woman. The over-priced, impossibly ornate styles emanating from Paris were irrelevant to her; she wanted modern, comfortable, youthful and, above all, affordable clothes.

He decided, therefore, to channel his fellow countrymen. He invited them to stop aping Parisian grandeur and start designing innovative, easy clothes. In asking them to display their designs at his fashion show he was asking them to take a huge risk, for by challenging French supremacy in the American market they were incurring Gallic wrath and risked being banned from buying toiles.

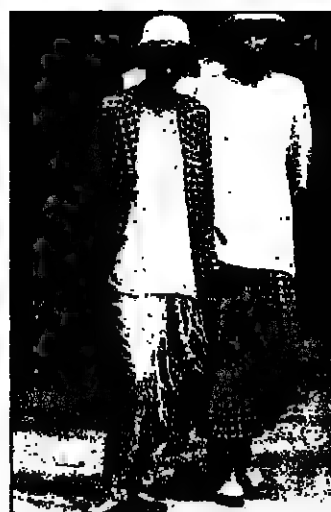
Nevertheless, Roberto Capucci, Marchese Emilio Pucci, Simonetta Fabiani and 14 other designers agreed to take part. They were encouraged by Signor Giorgini's white lie that he could guarantee the attendance of the top American press, as well as buyers from Bergdorf Goodman, I. Magnin, Saks and Nieman Marcus.

The wily Signor Giorgini then turned to the buyers, luring them to Florence with promises of grand dinners in historic palazzi and hobnobbing with the local aristocrats.

Jane Mulvagh explains how a war-wrecked nation set a fashion agenda. Forty years on, that influence is as strong as ever



The Italian jacket: Giorgio Armani's softening of tailoring changed the modern way of dressing



PHOTOGRAPHS: CHRIS MOORE

He even arranged that the old dragons be carried up Renaissance stone staircases in sedan chairs borne by liveried footmen.

The Americans were seduced. They arrived, they bought and they broadcast the message of Italian style. They had never seen clothes like it: simple resort clothes such as Capri pants, loose boldly printed shirts, bodies (leotards), wrap-

around or dirndl skirts and ponchos, all worn with bare brown legs and flat Grecian sandals.

Audrey Withers of British *Vogue* returned amazed: gentlemen were wearing resort clothes and bare legs in the city's streets. Overnight, Parisian formality seemed dated. As one Italian newsreel reporter put it, "Let's forget cardboard clothing. Men

don't want to dance with women wearing boxes any more."

John B. Fairchild of *Women's Wear Daily* of New York recalls that Signor Giorgini "took us all by the hand and led us to the new world of Italian fashion where men and women in dashing Italian clothes rode their Vespa's dinging warmly to each other. How young they looked and how sexy they

felt... Italian fashion has always been more modern than French fashion".

Since then, the Italians have made three outstanding contributions: they have industrialised the manufacture of high-quality designer clothes, Giorgio Armani has softened both women's and men's clothing and Luciano Benetton has built a fashion empire based on the new principles of decentralised production and sales.

The first of these was the most significant. It was a skill that derived from Naples, where small factories had made uniforms for both sides during the Napoleonic wars. The ruling Savoia family then moved the industry to Turin, its home town, in order to create jobs. It remains there in the form of GFT and Miroglio, the big industrial giants.

After the war, Italian labour was cheap, compared with much of Europe, and its entrepreneurial class exploited this. In the 1960s, these entrepreneurs introduced high technology and their sensitive and fast-responding aesthetics. Before then, it was impossible to buy high-quality, ready-to-wear designer clothes; one either bought couture or patronised a local dressmaker.

Now huge corporations such as GFT, which had sales of 990 billion lire in 1987, Miroglio and Marzotto (812 billion lire) manu-

facture not only the top Italian labels, but also French, American and British ones too. Because Italian labour rates are now on a par with the rest of Europe, many firms have set up factories, particularly for embroidery and piece work, in the Far East, New Delhi and Bangladesh, even though the finished garments may bear the prestige Made in Italy label.

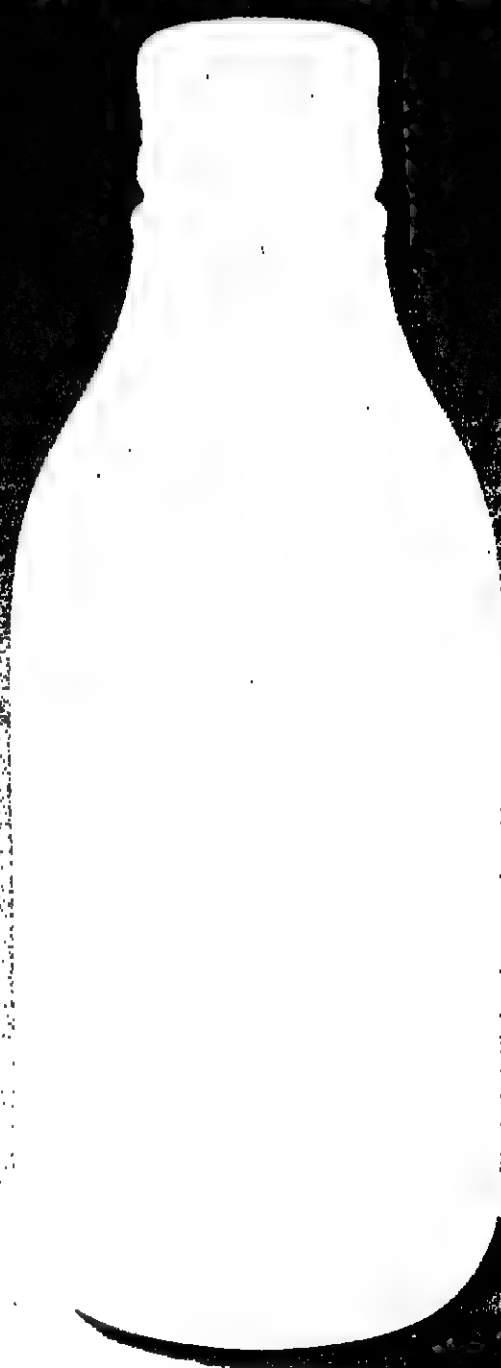
The second contribution was Armani's softening of tailoring. In the 1970s, he single-handedly changed the modern way of dressing, and his work has had a dramatic impact on everyday life internationally, making the jacket, for both sexes, the fulcrum of the modern wardrobe.

Finally, the Italians have pioneered what has become known in the trade as the "Benetton concept". Signor Benetton's vision was to decentralise both production and sales. Large though it is, the company employs only 1,500 people. It contracts out 80 per cent of its output to 250 suppliers employing 25,000 workers.

In addition, Signor Benetton set up a string of franchised shops, which he supplied with very basic knitswear. Raw made-up jumpers were dyed in vast batches on the spot so he could react immediately to the market, because what matters is this week's colour.

The key to Italy's success, which the British may want to bear in mind, is the cooperation between high-fashion designers and big industry, support and investment by the government, and a confidence verging on arrogance. When did you last hear Italians talking down their fashion industry?

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the higher the acidity of the oil, the less aromatic and heavier the taste will be.

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Tagliatelle with mussels in garlic and parsley sauce

36 mussels; 3 tbsps Dante Olive Oil; 1/2 medium sized onion, finely chopped; 1 clove garlic, chopped; 450g/1lb tin peeled tomatoes; 1 glass red wine; 2 tbsps chopped parsley; salt and ground black pepper; 450g/1lb white tagliatelle; extra Dante Extra Virgin Olive Oil. Tagliatelle: Boil the water. Then add the tea-spoon of salt, and add a tablespoon of Dante Olive Oil. Boil the dried tagliatelle.

Sauce: Heat up the Dante Olive Oil. Add chopped garlic, and chopped onions. Heat up for 2-3 minutes. Add the canned tomatoes, and add a glass of red wine.

Mussels: Clean mussels. Do not add water; the mussels will cook in their own steam.

Then: Drain pasta and add a few drops of Dante Extra Virgin Olive Oil and toss pasta. Add sauce to mussels. Add parsley and pepper/salt.

This main course should be accompanied by a green salad and wine, and could be followed by figs, cut in quarters and accompanied by fromage frais.

Risotto

700 ml (1 1/4 pints) hot chicken stock infused with 5ml/1 level teaspoon saffron threads; 25g (1oz) butter; 30ml (2 tbsps) Dante Extra Virgin Olive Oil; 2 cloves garlic, crushed; 1 large Spanish onion, chopped; 250g (8oz) risotto rice; 300ml (1/2 pint) dry white wine; 75g (3oz) freshly

grated parmesan cheese.

To Serve:

Butter; parmesan cheese. Soak saffron in the hot chicken stock for about one hour. Strain and discard saffron threads.

Melt butter with Dante Extra Virgin Olive Oil in a large saucepan. Add crushed garlic and chopped onion. Cook until soft. Add rice and stir, cooking over a low heat for two minutes.

Add 300ml (1/2 pint) chicken stock and cook gently stirring very often, until liquid is absorbed, then add another 300 ml (1/2 pint) of stock. Repeat as before then add 300ml (1/2 pint) white wine. When this has been absorbed add the remaining 100ml (1/4 pint) stock and cook gently stirring until the rice is tender. Do not allow the mixture to become overdry. It is supposed to be creamy. Add the cheese, stirring to an even distribution. Add a generous knob of butter, stir and serve. Allow individuals to add extra parmesan cheese to serve. Serves 4.

The eastern gateway opens a little wider

Trieste is forging new links with Italy's neighbours

Trieste provides Italy with a gateway to the countries of Eastern Europe. Today its port is at best ajar, but several of the city's institutions have seized the chance to forge new kinds of link, particularly in areas such as education and science. The United World College of the Adriatic at Duino, a village along the coast to the west, has set out to cultivate relations with Eastern Europe, including Russia, and the Area science park in Trieste itself, which groups together a number of scientific institutions, is encouraging cooperation on industrial applications of science.

The city is not entirely free of Balkan turbulence, however. The port of Trieste was hit by Yugoslavia's collapse, and Rome has put it under a government commissioner. The city's industry, too, is in decline, which some would describe as terminal. And although incorporated into an Italian law, plans to graft an offshore financial centre for dealing with Eastern Europe on to the free port have not yet had clearance from the European Commission in Brussels.

Giorgio Tombesi, president of the chamber of commerce, still believes the project is not definitively blocked, and says that if finally approved, it will "represent an enormous breakthrough". But on November 11, the Commission gave the Italian government 30 days to answer charges that it would be incompatible with the EC's competition policies.

Trieste has a minority population of ethnic Slovenes, and is acutely sensitive to the changes taking place in Eastern Europe, particularly across the border in what used to be Yugoslavia. This in itself causes tensions. The nationalist municipal administration shows less interest in the city's economic plight than in defending its Italian identity, or *italianità*, at the expense of the Slav minority.

For example, the elected Slovene representative on the city council is not allowed to speak in his own language, and Monsignor Lorenzo Belloni, the bishop of Trieste, has spoken of "half-paralysed" local authorities.

The town hall is influenced by a vociferous Italian refugee lobby, which was never reconciled to the loss of the Istrian and Dalmatian territories that belonged to Italy between the two world wars, and which still demands steps to recover them. Giulio Staffieri, the mayor, said this month that he "dreams" of moving Italy's frontiers eastwards. The Movimento Sociale Italiano, the neo-fascist party, openly demands it.

None of this bitterness is in the air at the United World College of the Adriatic, one of eight such colleges under the

patronage of the Prince of Wales. Duino is a Slovene-Italian village, and Corrado Beldi, its president, an atypical refugee from Istria. The college, he says, has been given the chance to forge new relations with Eastern Europe. Of its 200 pupils, 47 are from the area, as are four members of the 22-strong permanent teaching staff.

The UW colleges prepare students for the International Baccalaureate and university entrance. In October, the first 36 students from two Slovene schools received their diplomas. The college has also arranged for the Baccalaureate to be taught in two schools in Croatia, one in Hungary and two in Poland. Various proposals have been made for the founding of a UW college in Eastern Europe, but nothing has yet been decided.

There is a similar sense of challenge and opportunity at the cluster of scientific institu-



Trieste: the Piazza dell'Unità d'Italia

tions in the Area science park. All stem from the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, founded in Trieste in 1964 by Abdus Salam, the Pakistani Nobel prizewinner, and priority was originally given to the less developed world. Emphasis is now placed increasingly on Eastern Europe.

A synchrotron light machine is due to start operating in the park next September, and Cosmos, a group of Russian scientists, has established a company in Trieste, with Swedish backing, to work with Area in industrial applications of the former Soviet space programme.

Professor Domenico Romeo, the president of Area, emphasises the importance of converting the results of research into productive activities by small high-tech companies, both in Italy and elsewhere. Area works with Trieste's Business Innovation Centre, which last year set up Services for Eastern European Development (Seed).

Antonio Sfiligoi, Seed's general manager, says aid has been given to a business innovation centre in Budapest. Various agreements have also been signed or are under discussion for help with business innovation or entrepreneurial development centres in Poland, the Czech lands, Croatia and Slovenia, as well as for technological parks in Moscow and Novgorod, with World Bank financing.

JOHN EARLE

هك من الفضل

THE world of Italian olive oil has changed, and for the better. Today, the discerning oil enthusiast can choose from scores of "gourmet oils", religiously bottled neat, that are labelled with the farm of origin and date of production and sell for three or four times the price of cheaper olive oils.

In Italy and beyond, more and more people are paying as much attention to their choice of olive oil as to their wine. In many households, oil has become a crucial regular ingredient and a status symbol.

"Overall production and export of olive oil has held steady over the past decade," explains Gabriella Proietti, the oil expert at the Italian Agricultural Federation, "but

there has been a drop in medium-quality oil and an impressive increase in the top products."

The undisputed high priest of Italian olive oil is Francesco Giusti, a tall Tuscan aged 59 with a majestic crown of white hair. At an oil-tasting convention in Rome recently he explained how oil should be tasted: "Pour about two fingers of oil in a large rounded glass. Move it around while warming the glass with the hands, and

breathe in deeply through the nose to capture the aroma."

"Then put several drops on the tongue, snap the tongue back and forth sharply against the back of the front teeth and breathe in sharply through the mouth several times. This will liberate all of the oil's most secret fragrances."

Signor Giusti, who runs a restaurant on the Tuscan Riviera, has written books on olive oil, and has established criteria for grad-

ing, tasting and combining oil with food.

"As with wine, every dish requires a certain type of olive oil to enhance its flavour without overwhelming it," he explains. "Any serious restaurant with a wine list should also have an oil trolley with several varieties of top-quality olive oil. A delicately flavoured boiled fish, for instance, needs a light oil such as that from Liguria. On the other hand, certain salads, meats

or pasta sauces call for a heavier oil with a more aggressive flavour."

The only type of oil which need concern the aspiring connoisseur, Signor Giusti is quick to point out, is what is defined by Italian law as "extra virgin". This should be the first pressing of the olives in a traditional cold press, without artificial heat or chemicals to squeeze more oil out of the same quantity of olives.

Each of the Italian regions pro-

duces certain types of oil, a result of the kinds of olive grown, the climate, and the traditions of production. Liguria generally produces a fairly thin, light yellow oil with a delicate taste. The southern regions like Calabria, Apulia and Sicily usually make thicker, greenish oils with a strong and pungent taste. Tuscany and Umbria, which in broad terms are considered the home of the best oils, produce something in between.

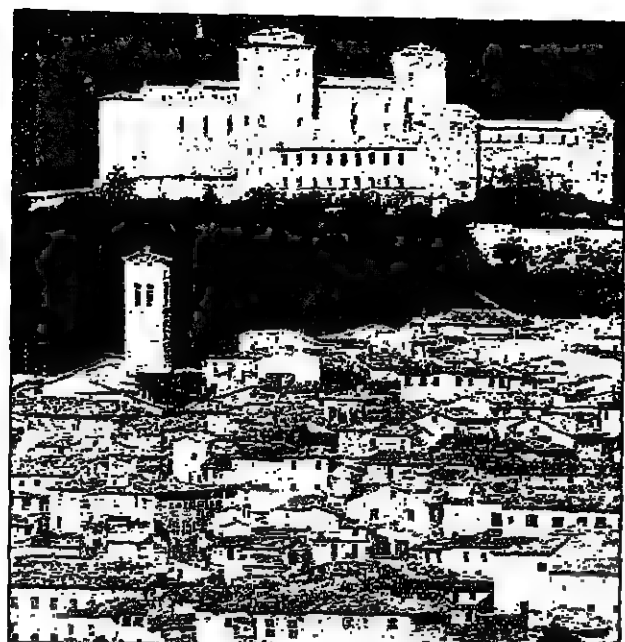
Like wine, however, olive oil cannot be reduced to simple classifications. "In each region there are oils of completely different types and qualities," explains Signor Giusti. "You can find terrible oils in Umbria and excellent oils in Calabria."

He adds: "A serious oil should always state clearly on the label that it is produced and bottled on the spot and made with local olives. And it should bear the date of production. Good olive oil must be drunk within a year of pressing, or two at most. After that it becomes gradually more rancid. Like wine, it should also be stored in the dark, because it is sensitive to light, and at a cool cellar temperature."

There is more to vinaigrette than meets the eye, Paul Bompard learns from a connoisseur of olive oils

The grove's a fine and pungent place

Heading for the hills



Making the gradient: the Umbrian town of Spoleto

Janet Stobart visits two of the cradles of the Renaissance, isolated and unspoiled by time

THE unbridled urbanisation of modern Italy makes a sad contrast to the splendour of almost anything built during the previous 19 centuries. It is possible, however, to take an optimistic view, since so many remnants of Italy's Roman, medieval and Renaissance past are still visible and more or less well-preserved throughout the country.

There are two hill towns which seem to harmonise easily with 20th-century bustle without compromising their medieval and Renaissance identity: Spoleto in the region of Umbria, the undulating land of shadows and light, and Urbino in the more remote hill country of the Marche.

Both have survived the ravages of urban progress. The dominant features of the view of Spoleto, for instance, are a huge Roman aqueduct and, beside it, the medieval Ponte delle Torri, or bridge of towers. The bridge appears to grow out of the Rocca Albornoz, a medieval fortress prison which became the seat of papal rulers after the 14th century. The fortress was recently restored with European Community funds, but the work has just stopped, along with the funds, leaving this majestic medieval landmark two-thirds restored.

Spoleto is a steep hilltop city with a wealth of Roman theatres and mosaics, narrow medieval streets, Romanesque church facades, and Renaissance fountains and piazzas. The jewel at the centre of this architectural treasure is the cathedral, standing in splendid isolation in a spacious piazza approached by wide steps leading down — rather than up — to its entrance.

Its facade, with its rose-window and pillared portico, needs restoration and clearing, but inside the work of restorers from Teatrino, the local Umbrian co-operative, has brought out the vivid humanity in the 15th-century frescoes of the life of the Virgin by Fra Filippo Lippi. The cathedral also has later works by Pinturicchio and Bernini.

Spoleto is one of the first beneficiaries of a conservation programme funded both by the state and by a private company. In 1972 Mobil Oil took the lead in demonstrating the concern of Italian business

for the preservation of the country's overwhelming artistic patrimony by paying for the restoration of the deconsecrated Romanesque church of San Lorenzo and turning it into a concert hall, the Sala Pegasus, with 1,700 seats.

Mobil has also become one of the main sponsors of Spoleto's midsummer arts festival, which has attracted international performers and spectators over the past 20 years. The company is by now almost an integral part of the city's life, having restored much of the city's architecture of all periods. In collaboration with the regional superintendency of the fine arts (which provides the restorers), Mobil has funded work ranging from cleaning Renaissance fountains to

The essence of Spoleto and Urbino has survived the ravages of urban progress

restoring Roman city gates and portals.

Mobil itself has dwindled in size, having been taken over by Kuwait Oil, but it is maintaining its commitment to Spoleto and to the restoration of art treasures elsewhere in Italy. Its latest project in Spoleto is a large Roman house complex that is now being excavated beneath the Renaissance town hall. Partially uncovered and open to the public, the house has magnificent relief mosaic floors, and is said to have been the residence in the 1st century of Vespasia Polla, mother of the Emperor Vespasian.

Urbino, an Apennine hilltop city, is north-east of Spoleto, within 20 miles of the Adriatic coast. A visit to it is little short of full immersion in the Renaissance. This city of many walls was first a Roman and then a medieval fortress town, until in the 12th century it came under the rule of the enlightened ducal family of Montefeltro. Federico da Montefeltro, in particular,

transformed Urbino in the mid 15th century into a classical Renaissance city pulsating with debate on art and science.

Raphael was born and did his early work in Urbino in the later part of the century, and Piero della Francesca, the artist and theorist of mathematical perspective, was also active here. The city continued to be a centre of Renaissance life and culture in the 16th century, under the rule of the Della Rovere family.

Urbino's dimensions and buildings are those of an almost unchanged mid-Renaissance city, says Michele Felici, a geologist and surveyor for the city council, whose first concern is to keep it that way. The palazzo ducale, the ducal residence which towers over the rest of the town's Renaissance rooftops, is an outstanding example of 15th-century architecture.

It has a small, but remarkable art collection, which includes *La Muta* by Raphael and *The Flagellation of Christ* by Piero della Francesca. Duke Federico's study is a masterpiece of 15th-century Italian wood paneling, which gives a delightful panorama of *trompe l'oeil* scenes, while the study windows have views of dawn and sunset.

However, time and erosion have taken their toll in Urbino, too. The city walls are more than just old-world defence systems on view to modern visitors. They are also supports for the city itself and for the access roads that wind up the steep hillside. There are Roman walls, medieval walls and Renaissance walls, the last dating back to at least 1500.

This summer, bad weather and 20th-century traffic caused the collapse of about 15 yards of Renaissance wall, resulting in the closure of an important access road to the city centre. "Walls are a vital part of our city's life," Signor Felici points out. Their collapse is a threat to the buildings they support, including the convent of Santa Chiara, now partially restored but in need of more work.

As the alarm went out for help to hold up Urbino's city walls, offers came in from private sponsors, but there is no definite proposal as yet for the maintenance of one of Italy's greatest, and so far unspoiled Renaissance jewels.



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مكتبات الأمل

ACCOUNTANCY

How green is your report?

By ANTHONY CAREY

THE government, the CBI, the Hundred Group of finance directors and the ICAEW's environment research group have all urged companies to make information available on their environmental performance. Some may dismiss this as a fad, but it is likely to bring permanent changes in financial reporting.

Pressure is being put on companies through regulation, in particular the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and from customers, shareholders, employees and lenders. Survey evidence shows a limited response to demands for better reporting of environmental issues.

There are some signs of improvement, however. The largest companies now usually include some information on environmental issues as part of their annual reporting. A few provide a separate, detailed environmental review.

The Institute's research group has recommended that companies should report formally in their annual report or in an associated environmental report on:

- Environmental policy;
- The identity of the director with overall responsibility for environmental issues;
- Environmental objectives, expressed in a way that enables performance against them to be measured;
- Information on actions taken, including cost;
- The key impacts of the business on the environment and, if practicable, related performance measures;
- The effect of compliance with regulations and any industry guidelines;
- Significant environmental risks not required to be disclosed as contingent liabilities;
- Key features of external audit reports on the enterprise's environmental record.

The Hundred Group has pointed out that objectives should be able to lead to measurable improvements in the environment rather than remaining as vague expressions of good intent. They should also commit the company to positive actions.

Having produced a policy statement, the next step is to present relevant information on the progress of the company towards its objectives. Specific information describes action taken or results obtained in pursuit of environmental objectives. It has the merit of being potentially auditable and includes details of organisational arrangements to develop environmental awareness, specific projects undertaken, hazards arising from the company's activities and external recognition of good performance.

Data on performance could, for example, cover levels of noxious emissions and effluent discharges, energy consumption, noise levels and waste production and recycling information. Such disclosures have been largely absent in UK corporate reporting until now, but could enable users to assess performance over time and to make comparisons between companies. That depends, however, on companies reporting on a comparable basis, which, alas, occurs infrequently.

Financial information might include details of environmental spending. To be meaningful, the type of spending needs to be explained and whether it is capital or revenue. Most would not view the cost of cleaning up spillages, for instance, in the same light as spending on planned improvements. Disclosure of provisions for future expenditure and of contingent liabilities may be required under existing accounting requirements.

A report dealing with compliance with specified standards would normally embrace current and prospective legal requirements, such as those resulting from enacted or proposed EC directives, industry standards and corporate standards where these are more demanding. There has been little compliance reporting in the UK but this may be changed by the EC's proposed eco-audit scheme. References to independent audits of internal environmental reviews are also likely to increase if this scheme is approved.

Companies should seek to develop a dialogue with their own stakeholders on their information needs.

Above all, they should expect to have to provide a "true and fair" picture of their overall environmental performance.

The author, who is giving a personal view, is head of international accounting at the ICAEW.

Environmental impact: firms urged to detail pollution

Environmental impact: firms urged to detail pollution



Environmental impact: firms urged to detail pollution

Openness heard in private

THE Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales is preparing to discuss at its December council meeting whether to open its more important disciplinary hearings to the public. Journalists now being admitted to the monthly meetings will be disappointed. The debate on openness is likely to be heard in private.

Too much

INTERNAL book-keepers at the central London headquarters of KPMG Peat Marwick have, it seems, become concerned over the practice of issuing free sandwiches to staff in the canteens at Puddle Dock and nearby Salisbury Square. Hungry employees, many of whom are sent down by partners and colleagues with orders for several sandwiches at a time, are now required to fill out the names of all the people for whom the snacks are destined before leaving the check-out. Irritated form-fillers claim the queues stretch halfway round the buildings.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MEMBERS of the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation and the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation have been flocking to seminars imparting the awful truth that after slow horses and fast cars, the easiest way to lose money is failure to comply with regulations. Fines of up to £150,000 have been levied and there is no maximum. Many Lairo and Imro members have signed up. Two seminars are set for the City next month, by Cameron Markby Hewitt, the City lawyer, and Touche Ross. Details: 071 702 2345.

Awful truth

OVERHEARD at KPMG: A lawyer, an accountant and an actuary are discussing the merits of having a wife or a mistress. The lawyer: "Always a mistress, that way you can't be sued for alimony." The accountant: "Always a wife, much more tax efficient." The actuary: "Both. That way you can tell your mistress you're with your wife, the wife you're with the mistress, and spend more time at the office."

JON ASHWORTH

Crunching tackle by the Scots on service

HOW unusual to find one of the accountancy bodies' official magazines holding up a critical mirror to at least half its institute's membership. The editorial in the latest issue of CA magazine, the Scots institute journal, begins: "No other area of professional services has got itself into such a downward spiral of falling prices and falling respect for what it does for those prices as the accountancy profession — and it's all unnecessary."

The basis for this critique is a survey that it carried out in conjunction with Capital House, the investment management company. This looked at what clients thought of the service they received from their auditors and, more important, whether the marketing concerns and efforts of the audit firms bore any resemblance to what the clients wanted. The answer, you will not be surprised to hear, was a resounding "not really". For years now the great audit firms have pushed their brightest and best into non-audit services. The action and the fees were in consultancy, corporate finance, strategy, human resources and many another add-on service. For accountants this is sexy stuff. The crushing admission at social gatherings that you made a living from being an auditor could now be avoided. Even those still doing audit found ways of inventing fancy names for a basic and useful service.

But the downgrading, as CA magazine correctly points out, was inescapable. For all the fancy jargon and brand names attached to a basic audit service, the reality has been that firms have found that of all their areas of operation it was the easiest place to chop costs, staff and services. The argument used to justify this has been that technology, efficiency, resource allocation and other nebulous concepts meant that audits could take a shorter time, use fewer staff and hours and cost a lot less.

Indeed, so great has the cost-cutting been that next month the profession is finally likely to approve recommendations from its joint ethics committee to curb the practice of lowballing, whereby the firms charge a ludicrously uneconomic fee in the hope that they can sell other high-value services to the client. The firm's attitude has been one of, to quote another crunching tackle from the CA magazine editorial: "We don't care that this is an area of major corporate, indeed public concern, this is an unglamorous and ponderous item that can be chopped, boxed in and haggled over — now, can we sell you a computer consultancy project?"

The survey suggests that the auditing profession has got it all wrong. What clients appear to want is partner contact, advice and a good, useful service. What the profession thinks they want is a cheap statutory service that won't get in their way too much.

When the Scottish business community was asked to rate the importance of the factors by which they would assess auditors, they put regular contact with a partner way out in front. This was closely followed by experience of client's business sector and a capacity to offer advice in a wide range of areas. The lowest competitive price trailed in last. It also led the rankings of factors deemed not at all important. So much for the struggles firms have had to pare costs and undercut each other. It also adds strength to what you hear from finance directors who have been through the process of putting their audit out to tender. Often the hardest part is telling the good and trusted partners of the runners-up that they haven't got the business.

The easiest way around this is to tell a little white lie. In such circumstances, finance directors are tending to say that the fee was too high. It is much easier than getting into a complex argument over the quality of service. But the result is that accountancy firms erroneously believe that cost is the main factor in their failure to get the business. What the firms really need to attend to is the trend revealed in the sector of the survey dealing with perceived changes in standards of service offered by accountancy firms. Here only 17 per cent thought service had "changed for the better", 26 per cent thought it had "changed for the worse" and a depressing 56 per cent could perceive "no change" at all. After the marketing effort that firms threw into this area to dress up its mutton as lamb through the boom years, this must come as a blow.

Nor is it likely to be the last. Next week sees the publication of the long-awaited report from within the Auditing Practices Board on the state of audit. Rumour has it that the profession is unlikely to turn cartwheels in the street on reading its findings.

The author is Associate Editor of Accountancy Age



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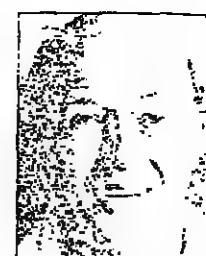
THEATRE page 38

John Wells is said to
make a convincing
pregnant hippie in
Travels With My Aunt

ARTS

MUSIC page 39

Roald Dahl's Little Red
Riding Hood takes to
the woods with a full
symphony orchestra



CINEMA: Geoff Brown reviews *Single White Female*, *Sister Act*, *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me*, *Rapid Fire* and *Tetsuo II: Bodyhammer*

Sharing can be very bad for your health

Single White Female at the Odeon Leicester Square, 18
Sister Act at the Odeon West End, PG
Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me at the Lumiere, 18
Rapid Fire at the MGM Haymarket, 18
Tetsuo II: Bodyhammer at the ICA Cinema

At one time the Ansonia residential hotel on New York's Upper West Side housed the likes of Stravinsky, Toscanini, Ziegfeld and Theodore Dreiser. Musicians loved the silence its thick walls bestowed. But now, for the purposes of the plot of *Single White Female* this turn-of-the-century pile is depicted as a grandiose but seedy apartment building, open to Hollywood's psychopaths. Residents get stabbed and bludgeoned. Sound carries horribly through the heating ducts. Rats occupy the basement.

For at least half its running time, Barbet Schroeder's psychological thriller puts scarcely a foot wrong. Bridget Fonda's software expert Allie needs a room-mate. She advertises, and decides on Hedra (Jennifer Jason Leigh), a shy girl new to the city. Their relations begin amicably; then Hedra, traumatised by a twin sister's death, gradually worms her way inside Allie's life. She obstructs the rekindling of a love affair. She becomes Allie's mirror image, borrowing clothes and mimicking her red, close-cropped hair. Instead of someone quiet to share the rent, Allie hooks a crackpot deluxe.

At first, Schroeder uses the same probing style that proved so devastating in *Reversal of Fortune*. He spends time prowling the Ansonia's corridors, quietly pitting character against setting, savouring the menace in an overhead fan or an apartment's imprisoning shadows. He gives his actors space to breathe, and build their roles through the accretion of tiny details. Fonda and Leigh play excellently together.

Then disaster strikes. The film lurches into Hollywood overdrive, as though everyone suddenly realised a mainstream audience was sitting, frantically, waiting for the shocks and gore. Schroeder makes

ample amends, as Scorsese did in *Cape Fear* and Jonathan Demme in *The Silence of the Lambs*. We get death by high-heeled shoe, much chasing, and a tedious finale in the basement, usefully equipped with a furnace and a cupboard of sharp-edged tools. It is saddening to see a fine film-maker courting the crowds by trashing his talent.

Sister Act woos the crowds too, not with violence but a chorus of nuns, rocking and rolling to doctored hits from the Sixties. Mary Wells's "My Guy" becomes "My God"; while "I Will Follow Him" takes on new religious meaning. There stands Whoopi Goldberg, as a Reno lounge singer hiding out in a San Francisco convent after witnessing a mob killing. The Mother Superior, Maggie Smith, frowns with distaste in her pew. But then she never wished to give Whoopi sanctuary in the first place. "Absolutely not," she intoned in her inimitable voice. "I couldn't possibly."

Before *Sister Act* got into its stride, this was rather my reaction. Me, like this film? I couldn't possibly. You can spot the clichés lining up: the fat, jolly nun who proves she can shake, rattle and roll with the best; the grinning soup-soup; the frightened mouse in need of liberation. Bah, humbug! And besides, Emile Ardolino directed the lamentable *Three Men and a Little Lady*.

He is still not the world's best: he fumbles over the beginning and occasionally lets Goldberg run riot. Yet there is something so warm-hearted about the concoction that scruples must be pocketed. Like *Strictly Ballroom* this is feel-good cinema, set in a world where good triumphs, humans fulfil their potential, and nastiness is sanitised.

For Harvey Keitel and the other hoods are strictly cartoon creations, and when gun meets wimple, no one is able to pull the trigger.

Though Goldberg can push too hard, she brings zest and soul to the role of Deloris, the rough-edged warbler who reluctantly exchanges fur and glitter for a nun's habit. Maggie Smith shapes every line with her usual finesse; while Kathy Najimy cuts through the clichés to make her fat, bubbly Sister a genuinely endearing figure. *Sister Act*, modestly budgeted, has been this summer's most profitable American film, far outstripping

ouster ventures such as *Batman Returns* or *Lethal Weapon 3*. Think small, think sweet, and you still can have a winner.

Fans expecting a stylistic reprise of the small-town saga of murder, lust and psychic phenomena will find themselves lost in dark, unfriendly territory. As for those who never cared who killed Laura Palmer, the promiscuous high school queen played by Sheryl Lee,

they will be intrigued, then baffled, then bored. Lynch's narrative concern is the last seven days in Laura's life. No linear plot suffices: the director proceeds, jumping-jack fashion, via a 35-minute prologue (the film's best part), joining visions and bizarre encounters in a red-curtained limbo, where a dwarfish man talks backwards and Kyle MacLachlan's FBI agent floats in mid-air. If the series seemed an amusing dream, *Fire Walk With Me* is a laborious nightmare.

Brandon Lee is the American-born son of martial arts legend Bruce Lee. His fists and feet lay waste thugs galore and bring down ceilings. His body is beautifully sculptured, a work of art — which cannot be said of *Rapid Fire*, the film he stars in. Lee plays a pacifist Los Angeles student, witness to a mob killing. Since he can hardly join Whoopi Goldberg's nuns, he takes cover with police protection. Soon shot at, he swallows his ideals and mops up the baddies with *Provers* Boothe, a cynical cop wearing Clint Eastwood's stubble. Dwight H. Lim's film dishes up its hokum with a slapdash vigour that may satisfy the genre's more undemanding fans, though some of the blood looks like strawberry jam.

If you prefer the cyberpunk brand of violence, how about *Tetsuo II: Bodyhammer*? The hero of Shinya Tsukamoto's Japanese monstrosity begins wearing glasses and muttering "Excuse me". The once skinheads kidnap his son, mutations occur. An arm becomes a gun; more hardware sprouts from his chest. By the end, he is a jangling lump of metal, granite and writhing tentacles. The soundtrack, meanwhile, dwindles to two sounds: gunfire, and "Aaahh!". Tsukamoto hurls the images at the screen, using intense close-ups and a lurching camera that gives the audience no relief. There is always the exit door.

David Lynch has never yet aimed at, or won over, the crowds. Even with *Twin Peaks*, the numbers who kept the faith and stayed with the cult television series to the final episode were exceeded by those who gave up, exasperated. *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me* is the movie prequel, and in its grueling, enigmatic way bids fair to alienate all comers.

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Hobson's choicest on parade

NEXT Tuesday's memorial service for Sir Harold Hobson, the long-serving *Sunday Times* theatre critic who died earlier this year, looks like turning into one of the more gripping entertainments in the West End this autumn. Fews of distinguished thespians are being lined up to perform extracts from Hobson's favourite plays. Harold Pinter will direct part of his own *The Birthday Party*, Sir Peter Hall directs a bit of *Waiting for Godot*, and Angela Pleasance recreates her role in Marguerite Duras's *The*

Square. Maria Friedman is to sing a song from *Imma La Douce*, and Paul Eddington will be reading from Hobson's autobiography, *Indirect Journey*.

Then come the tributes, likely to be soliloquies of some elegance in the hands of theatre critics Michael Billington and John Peter, and directors Pinter and Hall. The curtain goes up at noon, in the "actor's church": St Paul's, Covent Garden.

THERE is always room for debate about what constitutes the best of British art. But the latest enterprise of the British Council, the body which promotes Britain's culture abroad, has raised eyebrows. It has sent a production of Anthony Burgess's grim novel of future degradation, *A Clockwork Orange*, on a tour of Turkey. A Scottish theatre company, TAG, is in Istanbul and Ankara this week. Eunice Crook, director of the British Council in Glasgow, expresses herself "delighted that we are able to offer audiences in Turkey the rare opportunity to see this sensitive production". The novel's various adaptations to date have not proved unduly successful. Burgess disapproved of the Kubrick film, and a Royal Shakespeare Company "musical" version was not acclaimed.

Honour for Andy
ANDY HAMILTON, the Jamaican-born saxophonist who made his recording debut last year at the modest age of 73, is to be awarded an honorary MA by Birmingham University. Hamilton has lived in the city for 40 years, earning a living in a factory by day and playing his distinctive brand of Caribbean jazz by night. The citation also highlights Hamilton's work as an educator and with his multi-racial workshop big band, The Blue Pearls.

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Sir Harold Hobson: many friends at his memorial

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TELEVISION REVIEW: Peter Barnard on a new drama by the author of *Bad Girl*

Nice Town is a new town, by Docklands out of Milton Keynes. Oh heck, oh lummy. The houses all occupy cul-de-sacs, and are mock this and neo that. Georgian, Tudor, that sort of thing. Even the double glazing is probably mock-leaded light. And quite right too, for this kind of living is easily mocked but less easily lived.

Into Nice Town comes New Man, back from 15 years in Australia but right-on for all that. He is railing a black wife and a child and a set of attitudes that would put the Lib Dems in Downing Street. The wife goes out to work and New Man stays at home. He brings up baby, to the slow-burn irritation of his wife: "Why don't you go out and get a job?" She's been abroad, so hasn't heard of Norman Lamont.

Nearby live New Man's brother, whose sperm count is not all it might be, and the brother's wife, whose maternity instinct is in overdrive. New Man once had a fling with the brother's wife so of course he offers...

I expect it was at this point in *Nice Town*, a three-parter by Guy Hibbert which began on BBC 2 last night, that the ratings recorded a blip when maiden aunts and others switched off the television in favour of the kettle, real steam being so much safer than the figurative kind.

Or did they do so when New Man, beautifully played by Paul McGann, chose as the initial receptacle for his donated sperm a Thomas the Tank Engine ashtray? Either way, maiden aunts missed a treat, for even if the *Radio Times* description ("dark comedy") is not quite right, this is very funny, or perhaps I mean very witty, drama.

Naturally the piece is heavy with meaning, in a flip sort of way. There is New Man's decision to let a couple of neighbouring teenagers have the spare room for further education, only for the 15-year-old girl to become pregnant. New Man ("but I left them condoms") ends up under police investigation as an accessory to procuring sex with an under-age girl. No wonder he looks bemused: for this you can go to jail, for giving your sister-in-law a child via a Thomas the Tank

Not too naughty

Engine ashtray you get a hug and a glass of champagne. A funny old world? The blessed Margaret said it there.

Hibbert's script is a lovely piece of work, subtler than his

Bad Girl but just as deft of phrasing. And observation: his fiction of a "neighbourhood morality watch" is surely only just ahead of fact, though to make the leading local

moralist the father of the promiscuous girl was a tad too obvious.

Not that it mattered. On a Wednesday night in November, this kind of drama is enough to give the genre a good name. Which, at the BBC these days, it badly needs.

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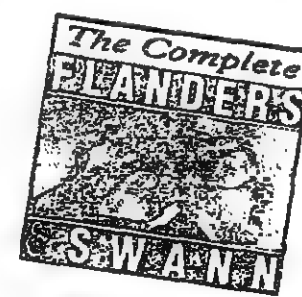
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Everyone Needs Opera

مكتبة الأمل

GALLERIES: Andrew Gibbon Williams reviews two 'European' shows in Edinburgh

Excellence knows no frontiers

A map made by a 14th-century English monk, in the National Library of Scotland's European Treasures exhibition, shows Scotland as a tiny, amorphous blob at the extremity of the known world. Outside the library, the Scottish capital's contemporary self-image contrasts starkly with this medieval sight. Edinburgh, site of the European summit in December, is preparing to strut to the front of the world stage.

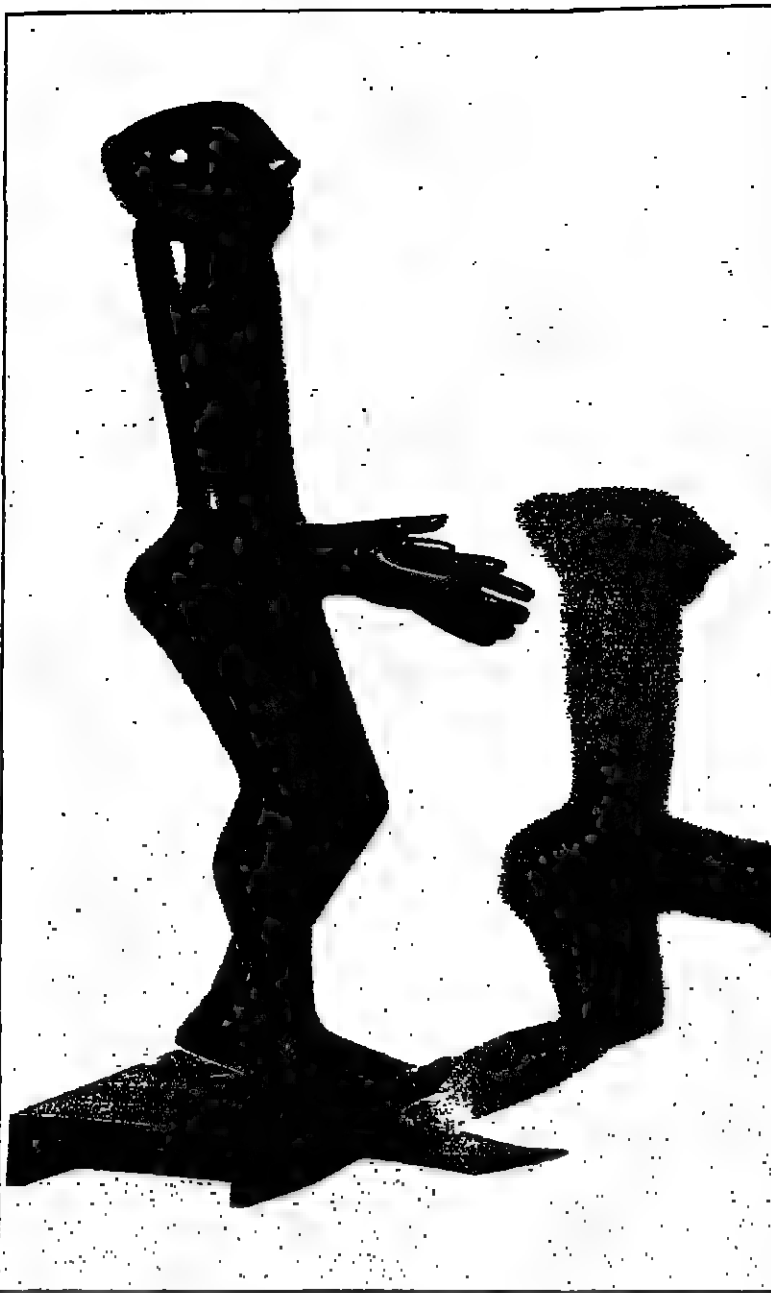
If any of Europe's leaders find time for this exhibition, he or she may discern a political pointer or two among the items on show. A French map caricaturing the European power game around 1900, for example, might be read as an injunction against nationalism; the travesties of William Lithgow, an early 17th-century Scot who criss-crossed Europe on foot, an argument in favour of the removal of all borders.

In the Euro-maniac atmosphere engulfing Edinburgh at the moment it is hard to dismiss such extraneous political thoughts. Ultimately, however, they detract from one's enjoyment of the artefacts themselves. Whatever its *raison d'être*, this exhibition is essentially a celebration of the most beautiful manuscripts, exquisite printing and ingenious cartography ever produced in the West. It is consoling that artistic quality never fails to sideline politics.

Of no individual item is there more true than the National Library's rare copy of the great Gutenberg Bible. The perfection achieved so soon after the invention of printing always amazes, and nowhere is it more remarkable than in this astounding example of German craftsmanship. Even now, after 500 years, not a spot of foxing disfigures the book's paper. The text remains as legible as the most up-to-date computer print.

Something of course was lost with the advent of printing and, in a display case near to this prize exhibit, there is a chance to savour it. Of all surviving medieval manuscripts, prayer books or "Books of Hours" as they are called, are the most glorious. In a masterpiece of the illuminator's art embellishing that once measured by Marie de Rieux, St Christopher, a holy passenger on shoulder, staff in hand, cloak-a-fur, strides manfully across the river. In the 13th-century Rosslyn Missal the hand of an anonymous Irish monk has transformed the capitals into beautifully intricate Celtic knots.

Such articles of faith, however, are



Kenneth Armitage's *July Figure* is included in the exhibition Twelve Stars, now in Edinburgh but due in London in December

devoid of the charge which can electrify history into life. For that very special *frisson* one must turn to the personal letters penned by the great historical personages. Mary Queen of Scots writes the last, thrillingly poignant, letter of her tragic life to her brother-in-

law, the King of France. If she trembled as she entrusted her servants to his care no sign of it mars her script. Beethoven is resurrected as a less dramatic moment in his life. Writing to the Scottish folksong collector, George Thomson, Beethoven expresses a wish

to visit Edinburgh. What a pity he never made it.

While the National Library's exhibition addresses itself to the European Community's bibliophilic background, Edinburgh's newly refurbished City Art Centre focuses on its artistic foreground. Twelve Stars combines a small selection of 20th-century art works already in the collection of the European Parliament with a newly acquired larger group by young British artists.

Euro-sceptic doubts that the Community's artistic taste might be as implausible as its agricultural policy will be more than adequately confirmed by the former group. Apart from a typically graffiti-strewn exhorting by Antonio Tapies and a fine gestural painting by the Irish artist Barrie Cooke, these Euro pictures would give the uninformed the impression that the aim of late-20th-century European painting is to produce the visual equivalent of elevator music.

Compensating for the tedium, however, the 15 works by young British artists chosen by the exhibition's co-ordinator Andrew Wheatley exemplify the quality and diversity of work being produced by young artists in Britain.

In tune with the latest developments, several younger generation artists whose work signals a return to the long un fashionable ideals of abstraction are included. Callum Innes, the most impressive of them, favours the hypnotic effect which results when a screen of tentative lines invests the picture plane with infinite depths. Compared with Innes's sympathetic brand of abstraction, the more austere variety practised by older established artists such as Michael Craig-Martin looks off-puttingly mechanical.

Not that Britain's younger artists have declared the image extinct by any means. Both Helen Chadwick's gruesome large-scale transparency of a human brain and William Doherty's politicised Irish landscapes will give the bureaucrats of Strasbourg something to think about.

European Treasures: the shared inheritance at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh (01-326 4531) until April 30.

Twelve Stars: selected works from the European Parliament art collection, featuring new British acquisitions at the City Art Centre, 2 Market St, Edinburgh (01-225 2424) until December 12 and the Barbican Centre, London, from December 26.

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale finds *Travels With My Aunt* at Wyndham's Theatre a civilised outing

Doing the splits only multiplies the mirth

MULTIPLY Monty Python's archetypal suburbanite, Arthur Pewey, by a factor of three, and you have the opening frame of *Travels With My Aunt*. John Wells, in a three-piece business suit, sits primly drinking tea. Nearby are two other actors, Simon Cadell and Richard Kane, each with an identical tie, an identical white handkerchief peeking out of the identical grey flannel, and an identical cup in his hand. All are playing the same person. Henry Pulling, who has just retired from his bank job.

What follows is a delightful reversal of the story of the emotional education of a conventional older by his mischievous son or grandson. Henry is snatched from his cosy "prison-house" by his rip-roaring Aunt Augusta and thrust into the world of *Our Man in Havana* and *The Honorary Consul*. Someone a bit green becomes someone a bit Greene; and in triplicate.

Giles Haverall adapted Graham Greene's original novel for the Glasgow Citizens in 1989 and a tour in 1990; he directs this new, recast production at Wyndham's. Rightly, he has not let a push West End theatre intimidate him into gentrifying the piece. The decor is still the odd chair, a row of potted flowers or, for the South

American second act, multi-coloured streamers dangling from the flies. The three main actors — plus Christopher Gee for waiters, coppers and so on — not only swap the role of Pulling but play some 17 supporting parts, with no more radical changes than a twist of the face or accent. The result is as casually civilised an entertainment as the West End offers.

Why the sub-dividing of Henry Pulling? Well, it allows Wells to bring out the character's wintry, blimpish aspects, Cadell to show a solemn, more authoritarian side, and Kane to be a bit ingratiating and nerdy. It also suggests that the story essentially happens in his head. Tempted from his drab rut by Augusta — in Cadell's performance a fuming blend of Lady Bracknell and

Lydia Languish — he finds himself plunged first into the aftermath of a failed coup in Istanbul and then into art-mugging in Paraguay. By the end he is married with the 16-year-old daughter of a corrupt police chief and fully reconciled to his aunt's sexual and financial extravagances: "there seemed nothing very wrong with her curriculum vitae, nothing so wrong as 30 years in a bank".

The route to this genial conclusion is littered with gently amusing moments. The free-wheeling style means that even a sudden flashback to 1944, with Augusta's war-criminal lover escaping from Italy disguised as a priest, is easy to believe. So are Kane as, among other things, the best, benign African she lures into her service and her bed, and Wells as a hair-tossing American hippie battling with a phantom pregnancy and a German general's wife who threatens the fake priest with arrest unless he grants her instant abortion.

By the end the Pulling triad has not only accepted human difference. It has embodied it again and again and again. Could there be anything more liberating, forgiving and Greene-like to remember in the bleak winter months ahead?



Pulling together: (left to right) John Wells, Christopher Gee, Richard Kane and Simon Cadell in *Travels With My Aunt*, Wyndham's Theatre

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LITERATURE: Nicolette Jones on the Whitbread Prize, which compares children's books with novels, and biographies with poetry

Torn between the lives and letters

After the Booker Prize was shared this year, Mark Lawson, one of the judges, explained the unusual move: "Deciding between Unsworth and Ondaatje is... [to judge] the rattling historical narrative against the dense poetic meditation; the book powered by plot in opposition to the book of which the motor is the prose. How can they fairly be compared?" If this is an acceptable excuse for not coming up with an overall winner, the task of the Whitbread Prize judges should be impossible.

The Whitbread is a prize that presumes to measure children's books against biographies, and poetry against novels. By comparison, the Booker's evaluation of unlike against unlike within the narrow frame of fiction is a doddle. Today the £2,000 winners of the Whitbread's five categories (novel, biography, first novel, poetry, children's novel), chosen from shortlists of four by five panels of three judges, will be announced. And on January 26, a panel of 11 judges — one from each threesome plus six additional celebrities — will come up with one £20,500-winning Book of the Year from the five-category shortlist. Two books will surely not do.

If Mark Lawson had a point, what possible criteria can lie behind the Whitbread's final choice? "The book that will be important in ten years' time" is apparently the guideline given to the judges in their briefing. "The book that is sufficiently head and shoulders above its own category and should have its way into that greater category in the sky," hazards Joan Bakewell, on this year's final panel.

Bakewell admits, though, that "judges must be biased to their own favourite territory" and that she, for instance, is "not familiar with the state of play of children's books". A children's novel is the one category that has not yet won. It may always be at a disadvantage. What children's book can hold its own against the year's finest adult literature, with a panel of grown-up judges? Perhaps if a new *Alice in Wonderland*, or *Wind in the Willows* turned up — books that have unquestionably made it into that "category in the sky" — it might stand a chance.

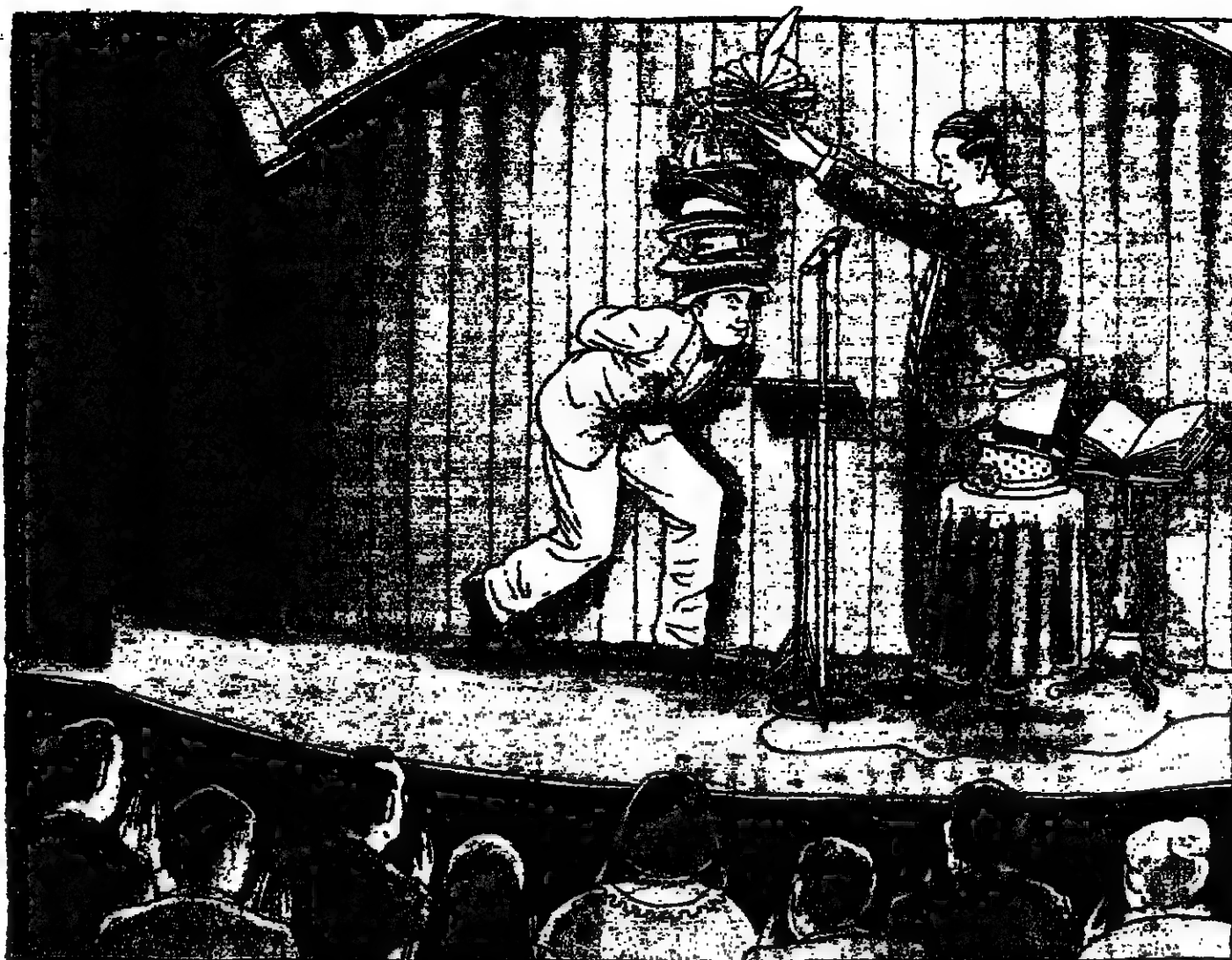
"Never, ever, not in a million years, it would never be recognised," says John Walsh, one of last year's judges. He thinks the celebrity judges, far from ensuring a choice in line with the general public's taste, tend to lack the expertise and subtlety to recognise the quality of such categories as poetry and children's books. (His panel chose the biography, John Richardson's first volume of his *Life of Picasso*.)

The novelist Barbara Trapido, also on last year's panel, believes that "if you choose famous people as judges, the biography has a built-in advantage: they like books about famous people." Walsh thinks a celebrity panel tends towards weighty choices for another reason: "If you ask a celebrity to be an ordinary Joe, to choose a book for the man in the street, they will aspire to be a literary critic — and start using words like 'resonant' and 'enjambed' and 'armature'." He cites as an honourable exception Sir Michael Havers, the then Attorney General, who told the television cameras, when asked to comment on Peter Reading's collection of poetry *Stein 1986*: "I hated every word of it."

It may be that the celebrity Whitbread panels make safe choices. They have tended to make "worthy" ones, of books with a human interest story. When a first novel did win, Paul Sayer's *The Comforts of Madness* (1988), it was based on the writer's own experience as a psychiatric nurse. When the victor was a collection of poetry, Douglas Dunn's *Elegies* (1985's winner) was a moving tribute to his late wife. And even Christopher Nolan's autobiography *Under the Eye of the Clock* (the winner in 1987) was a phenomenon because of the author's disability.

The motive for pitting such disparate genres against each other is publicity. Whitbread, which had been sponsoring book prizes since 1971 in an assortment of categories, including, in different years, "short stories" and "first books" (fiction or non-fiction), was not getting enough publicity for itself or its winners. In 1985 the PR company Kallaway was brought in. The Book of the Year was their doing.

"Whitbread had had difficulty achieving publicity for five winning books," says Bill Kallaway. "We wanted to bring media focus to the category winners by making them nominees for the Book of the Year. The aim was visibility for them and the prize."



to the attention of the judges, and a category win can be immensely valuable. When we chose James Hamilton-Paterson's *Gerontius* as the best first novel of the year, it didn't have either an American or a paperback publisher. Afterwards it got everywhere."

The Whitbread has a particularly good track record in the category judging. The threesomes of specialist experts have almost invariably come up with shortlists of undeniable quality and interest — the novel and first novel judges often choosing books that missed, but were widely thought to have de-

served, the Booker shortlist. This year, for instance, Adam Thorpe's *U/verton*, much tipped for the Booker, shows up on the first novel shortlist. The category choices can also be adventurous: commendable but little-known names achieve recognition, and yet give no cause to attract the (albeit probably gratuitous) charge of tokenism sometimes levelled at the Booker.

The final judging is a less reliable business. Those celebrities can make for a motley crew — but then so can five Booker judges steeped in literature. Everyone has idiosyncratic prejudices. Whether anyone

can make an absolute judgement of quality between such disparate books boils down (as it does with any prize) to whether there is such a thing as a canonical scale of greatness against which all literature can be measured. Finding a place for a book on that hypothetical scale is not the same as predicting whether it will be read in ten years' time — a lot of school textbooks qualify for that. It depends on a hunch, an instinct for the ineffable quality, the genius, the specialness of a book. Not every judge may have an antenna for this. But the particular frisson of the

Whitbread is that the judges dare to act as though they all do. Is it a pointless comparison? I prefer to see it as daring. What is chosen in the end is worth reading because a panel of readers has ventured to evaluate it in such a curious way. Among past winners there have been wonderful books: Douglas Dunn's *Elegies*, Kazuo Ishiguro's *An Artist of the Floating World*, John Richardson's *Life of Picasso*, for instance. And if the point of prizes is to make people notice books, the Whitbread is increasingly valuable. Long may it continue in its quirkiness.

In tune with a revolting Roald

CONCERT: Richard Morrison reviews the first musical work commissioned by the admirable Roald Dahl Foundation

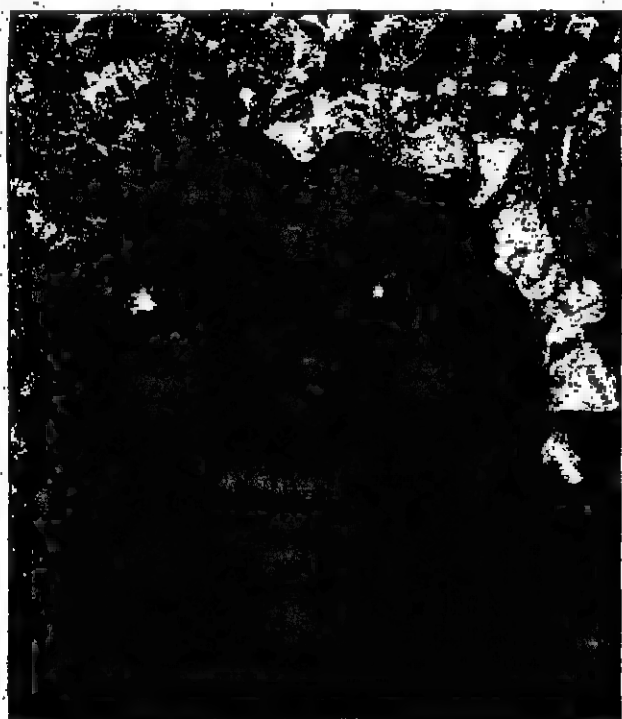
Green waistcoats on every man in the London Philharmonic: green tails for the conductor, Franz Welser-Möst. Behind the orchestra, the choir stalls had been converted into a forest of conifers. Lurking there were the singer Benjamin Luxon disguised as a wolf, and Julie Walters dressed first as an alcoholic granny and then as a pistol-packing Little Red Riding Hood. And out in front, Robert Powell — yes, Jesus of Nazareth himself — read the narration.

The words were Roald Dahl's (most of them, anyway), and this occasion marked not only the premiere of Paul Patterson's *Little Red Riding Hood*, setting Donald Struck's adaptation of one of Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes*, very much in *Peter and the Wolf* style for narrators and orchestra; but also the official launch of the admirable Roald Dahl Foundation. Established after the author's death (two years ago next Monday), the Foundation raises money to support literacy, neurology and

haematology. Some £200,000 has already been distributed. The Foundation also aims to commission a series of musical works based on Dahl's tales. Patterson's was the first of these, and royalties from its performance and recordings will be channelled back into the Foundation's funds. That is a neat idea, and *Little Red Riding Hood* was an auspicious beginning: mischievously funny, vividly imagined in musical terms, and performed with zest.

Much has been made of Dahl's sense of the macabre; his instinct that what adults find distasteful is exactly what grips the kiddies. There was plenty of that here, as the wolf considers his human-supper menu, and Patterson matched it in spirit with an unashamedly tuneful display of orchestral burlesque.

But he also found an ingenious way to parallel Dahl's humour. It is not the irony of *Riding Hood* producing a pistol to shoot the wolf that sets children giggling; it is the fact that she produces the pistol



Julie Walters: Granny in *Little Red Riding Hood*

from her knickers. The very word is like a trigger to the prepubescent mind. So Patterson gives reasonably musical adults equivalent "triggers": a door-bell that plays Beethoven's Fifth ("fate") as the wolf approaches or the *Eroica*

when the "heroic" *Riding Hood* enters; a snatch of Wagner's *Isolde* music as the wolf dreams of eating a "juicy cow"; and a splendid debunking of the worst sort of minimalist music just before the wolf complains that devouring

granny made for a pretty minimal supper.

The in-jokes could have been cloying. But Patterson develops each character's music so resourcefully, and ties up the score with such finesse, that you could enjoy it all quite happily without detecting a single reference.

The celebrity appearances were not confined to this premiere. Earlier, Leopold Mozart's *Toy Symphony* had boasted a barrage of birdsong from a formidable team of cuckoos, nightingales and quails: the multi-gifted David Mellor, Frank Bruno, displaying the artistry that has made him the biggest thing in pants; Zandra Rhodes, Quentin Blake (Dahl's illustrator) and Helen Lederer.

Then followed Dohnányi's *Variations on a Nursery Song*, with Nelson Goerner doing plucky work at one piano, and Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals*, with Claire and Antoinette Carr doing equally stirring things at two. Given the presence of so many small children, this first half probably had one piano and two pianists too many. That was a small miscalculation in a fun evening. Radio 3, incidentally, broadcasts *Little Red Riding Hood* live from the Festival Hall at 1.05 pm tomorrow.

BLUES: David Sinclair on B.B. King and Robert Cray, sharing the billing at Hammersmith Odeon



B.B. King: maintaining his natural bonhomie while curbing his showman's desire to play to the gallery

Two strong shades of blue

On the first of two nights in London, blues maestros B.B. King and Robert Cray were actually on stage together for just one number right at the end: a clumpy mid-tempo swing, during which King's Gibson ("Lucille") and Cray's Stratocaster (unnamed) were soon engaged in a snappy dialogue seemingly independently of their owners. The contrast between King's rich, warm tone and Cray's spiky-sharp sound was pronounced, but the rapport was fluent.

On this occasion, it fell to King to open proceedings,

which he did with his customary aplomb. Now 67, and putting on weight as rapidly as he has been gaining extra fans during the blues renaissance of recent years, King was in an expansive mood. His deep understanding of the sadness at the core of the blues was tempered by the knockabout humour of "How Blue Can You Get?" and "Nobody Loves Me But My Mother" ("and she could be lying, too"). With his lugubrious eight-piece band as reliable as ever, he pushed down harder on the pedal for a familiar version of "Rock Me Baby" and the

mannered funk of "The Thrill Is Gone", still his biggest solo hit.

His only misjudgment was an arrangement of "When Love Comes To Town", his 1989 hit with U2, which would have been better suited to the environs of a supper club, but apart from this, King maintained his natural bonhomie while curtailing his traditional showman's inclinations to meander during songs and play to the gallery.

Cray, who is often accused of being too uptight and precise in presenting his material on stage, was obviously fired up by the occasion, and turned in one of his liveliest ever performances at this venue. At 39, he is no longer the young Turk who shifted the blues world on its axis in the mid-Eighties.

But with maturity has come gravity. Always a gifted singer, he is now beginning to sound as if he has lived through some of the tangled emotions and searing moods that his lyrics invariably portray. He scaled improbable heights during the instrumental coda of "I Was Warned" when, against a mysterious pseudo-samba beat he flaunted a guitar playing technique so extraordinary that it began to sound almost supernatural.

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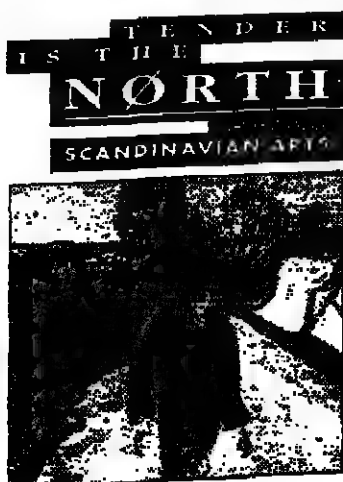
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ABOVE: THE CAVE, FRANS WIDERBERG, 1987

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Maurice Cowling enjoys Elton's history of the English, but wonders whether it is too high-minded for the people it celebrates

Sir Geoffrey Elton is one of the most distinguished living historians of England. He is also a refugee who arrived from Czechoslovakia before the last war. After being both a schoolboy and a teacher at a minor public school (Rydal) and doing national service in the East Surrey Regiment, he has remained here as an historian ever since.

The English is his judgment on England — a flattering account of "the surprising continuities" that he finds in the experience the English underwent between the Germanic invasions and the end of the 18th century, an encomium on the shaping they received from the "system of legal rights" and "centuries of strong monarchy" which "marked them out from other nations", and an inquiry into whether "democratic property-owning rentiers" and other 20th-century types have anything in common with them.

Sir Geoffrey takes us in five chapters through the history of England up to the end of the 18th century. Not all historians will agree with all his interpretations; his general editor, the distin-

guished medievalist James Campbell, has doubts about Sir Geoffrey's interpretation of the Middle Ages. But the real problem arises in the concluding chapter, not, as Sir Geoffrey modestly implies, because he knows less about the 19th and 20th centuries, but because their relation to the earlier centuries is the central question in the book.

The English is not exactly a Whig book. Sir Geoffrey is still the machiavellian realist who helped to liberate historical writing from liberal virtue. But it looks back to the past, like what it finds there, and wishes to carry forward what it finds there into the future.

As in Dean Inge's *England* (1926), which is a model of what this sort of work should be, so in *The English* the problem is one of continuity. But whereas *England* was both a satisfying analysis of the English character in the past and a savage analysis of the English

political situation of the 1920s, *The English* is cautiously hopeful about the present.

Like Inge, Sir Geoffrey fixes on the transition from rural to urban life since the late 18th century as a major discontinuity but, unlike Inge, is not so sure that its suddenness has made the problems it presents as insoluble as Inge supposed. On the one hand, he believes that the English have been swamped by the Scots, the Irish and coloured immigrants (who, however, receive a friendly report, that the Empire may have been something which the English did not really want, and that urbanisation, industrialisation and a massive population growth may have broken the historical mould).

On the other hand, he wishes to believe in the possibility of continuity. He raises two questions: whether "the ultimate truth of the English people's existence" still lies in a

THE ENGLISH

By Geoffrey Elton
Blackwell, £19.99

"mixture of order enforced by authority with freedom exercised under authority"; and whether or not the "drastic transformations" which he describes in law, government, politics, education and women's rights since the industrial revolution, have deprived the English of contact with their past.

Sir Geoffrey's history is not merely a political history. But its message is about the impact of politics and law and about the effect these have had — not on the "intellectual classes" of whom, as a saloon bar or even public bar Conservative, he tends to be somewhat dismissive — but on the great mass of English men and English women of all classes and all degrees

of intellectual accomplishment.

Sir Geoffrey believes that an effort will be needed if the English are to restore that "toleration" and "respect" for the rights of individual men and women which they had achieved by the end of the 18th century. And he identifies the tradition that will have to be restored if toleration and respect are to be made effective.

About his view of the tradition, three points must be made. First, there is in contemporary England little understanding of the law, a strong streak of lawlessness, and a strong belief that the best reaction to the law courts and the legal profession is to avoid them. Secondly, it has been the two major wars, symbolised by the Cenotaph and the transformed monarchy rather than the legal system and the old monarchy, which have made the most striking contribution to English stability and cohesion. And

thirdly, the failure of socialism to become revolutionary owes much more than Sir Geoffrey suggests to a temperamental English proneness to acquiescence, to the craft, cunning and compromise characteristic of the English governing classes, and to the hatred which the modern English feel for the energy involved in ideological conflict.

It is possible that the meaning of a nation's past may be unconscious, and that many who have never heard of the events and principles listed in *The English* have absorbed them. It is equally likely that they have not absorbed them; that, if not the suburbs then at least the housing estates and "the young" (whatever that may mean) are not subject to their influence; and that the educated audience, to which *The English* is addressed, has as little in common with the audience beneath it as the educated classes believed themselves to have with

the lower classes in the 1840s. Of course there are innumerable affiliations between the educated classes and everyone else, there is a sense in which England south of the Wash is an immense suburb, and there is something resembling a common culture which centres around the television and the newspapers. But the question that needs to be asked is whether there is not also a cultural gap. Are the assumptions out of which *The English* is written, however contrary of average English opinion, not so esoteric as to be entirely above its head? In other words, though Sir Geoffrey may be right about the English, is it not at all possible that most of them will not understand him?

Sir Geoffrey wishes not to believe this, and he may be right. But he may be wrong. Anyone may be wrong, but if Sir Geoffrey is wrong, then he has written a hi-minded book which the hi-minded will enjoy most.

Maurice Cowling is the author of *Religion and Public Doctrine in Modern England*. He is a fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge.

Virtuous machiavellian

Holding the vasty fields of France

Stage and film have given us an image of medieval kingship in the mould of either Henry V or Richard III. Shakespeare's Henry V embodies the military virtues of courage, honour, discipline, and patriotism; Richard the vicious world of political ambition, intrigue, and faction. Modern historians have endeavoured to overturn the Shakespearean prototype, but for Henry V at least this is less inaccurate than one-sided.

Relying heavily on Holinshed who, in turn, drew on 15th-century sources, oral and written, Shakespeare authentically conveys something of how Henry was seen in his day and of the way war dominated his short reign, more than half of which he spent in France. In these years the historian finds the normal records of English government grow thinner while the chroniclers give their attention almost wholly to the progress of the campaigns.

Though we may temper Shakespeare's heroics by insisting on the brutality and horror of medieval warfare, and emphasise, as Professor Allmand does, the organisational efficiency that enabled the mobilisation of armies, the provision of cannon and food for sieges, and the discipline required to hold armies together, assessments of Henry V have previously always been couched in terms of his military ambitions and genius. Not so in this volume, of which less than a third is devoted to the campaigns and more than half to "the exercise of kingship".

Allmand argues that Henry was a great king as well as a great warrior, and that the two are of a piece. In this he reflects a shift in recent scholarship towards investigating Henry's government of England and Normandy. How did he win and sustain support for the war? How did he organise England's enormous military and financial resources to secure victory? And how did he maintain order and authority in his absence abroad?

The answer lay not in any new methods or system of government, but in fulfilling kingship's traditional role. For this, the omens at his accession in 1413 were not good. The trauma of Richard III's deposition and his father's usurpation had left its mark: for 40 years military leadership had been dogged by incompetence and defeat, politics by faction and rebellion, and society by disorder and popular revolt. It was openly said that England was not governable. Henry's accession brought a mood of expectancy, fuelled not only by a yearning for change but by the impression he had made as head of the council in his father's despite. He came to the throne with a well known and well defined programme of government: fiscal discipline and attention to detail; the restoration of order in society and safety on the seas; reconciliation with former enemies and harnessing of their ambitions to Henry's own; confrontation of heresy and reinstitution of the church; the crown to be the symbol of unity and nationhood.

All this Allmand describes in a series of meaty chapters which build up a far more rounded picture of Henry as a ruler than in any previous study. We sense his mastery and incisiveness at his desk as much as on the battlefield, and are shown his shrewd choice of ministers and refusal to tolerate inefficiency. For Henry's own qualities exactly matched the model of kingship that his subjects cherished. The key was his sense of destiny, of being chosen by God to lead England. From that flowed all else: his piety, his strict justice, his aloofness and self-discipline, his ability to inspire loyalty and service, his unerring commitment to the task to which he was called. The transformation he wrought in the political climate was immediate and dramatic, as if he had released from frustration the pent up energies of a whole generation.

G.L. Harris

HENRY V
By Christopher Allmand
Methuen, £25



Henry V as archetypal English hero: Laurence Olivier in his 1944 film of Shakespeare's play. But did Henry's Treaty of Troyes foreshadow the Treaty of Maastricht?

Henry, Allmand shows, had qualities of greatness which enabled him to harness the wills of his subjects and the mechanisms of government to a policy of sound governance at home and empire abroad, the like of which England had not seen since the 12th century. But did he allow his sense of destiny and his own ambition to override his political judgment? Was his bid to become king of France (rather than rest content with the conquest of Normandy) not just ambitious beyond English capacities but a fundamental misreading of the increasingly separate identities of the two nations?

Allmand answers yes, and so de-thrones his hero. Most historians of the period would concur, and there is much to support their view. Beyond Anglo-Burgundian territories there was reluctance to acknowledge Henry's claim, and within ten years of his death it had lost all credibility. Within England there was little enthusiasm for the Treaty of Troyes, which linked England and France under a common kingship, and there were fears that it would erode national identity and independence.

Yet it was Henry's intention to maintain the integrity of both nations, with common kingship

providing the essential guarantee of peace and just government. Ironically it was the very pride in England which Henry consciously promoted through the use of English language and the cult of St George that impeded acceptance of his wider vision. We must not enrol Henry V as father of a *Europe des patries*, but he did, as so often, see further than his contemporaries. Allmand's assessment of the political as well as military achievement of Henry V materially extends our appreciation of his greatness.

G.L. Harris is the editor of Henry V: The Practice of Kingship (OUP).

We happy few and Whitehall

Henry Stanhope

STORM COMMAND
A Personal Account
of the Gulf War
By Peter de la Billière
HarperCollins, £18

When news came in September 1990 that Britain was to send forces to the Gulf, Peter de la Billière was motoring home with his wife at the end of a week's sailing in the Solent. He looked at her, she looked back at him — and her heart sank. That night he applied for the job of their commander.

Well, that is one revelation for a start. One knows that journalists and paint salesmen solicit work, but I thought generals, like Wesleyan ministers, awaited the call. This general, moreover, was retiring four months later. He had even been on a pre-release course in (of all things) butchery, prior to starting a civilian career as a farmer.

Other people in similar circumstances might have hidden in a cupboard until V-Day. Peter de la Billière, Britain's most decorated soldier, drafted not only his CV but a 10-point list of reasons why he should go. With hindsight, few would quarrel with the government's decision to appoint him.

Soldier-scribes suffer from several disadvantages: their respect for the Official Secrets Act (which they have signed); the oath of allegiance they have taken to the Crown; and their loyalty to contemporaries in the mess. Those who fought to oust Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait were all, apparently, splendid fellows, whom the general professes to have liked and admired for years. No doubt they were, but none comes alive in these pages.

The civil service emerges more battered and bruised. Whitehall proved a more obdurate opponent than Baghdad, "rate-capping" requests for more men and equipment. The defence secretary, Tom King, seemed powerless in his grip. Three times King enthusiastically endorsed de la Billière's demand for a force broadcasting station in the Gulf to inform and entertain his desert army — a thin sandy line longer than that from Land's End to John O'Groats. But three times the Sir Humphreys quietly sat on it. Yet the general got what he wanted in the end.

The book suffers from an inevitable imbalance, in that the land battle, the climax of the operation, occupies little more than one chapter. This accurately reflects the situation, in that the fighting was relatively short-lived, a virtual knock-out victory in round one.

For most general readers (as opposed to the serious students of logistics), the land battle is the most absorbing part of it. Apart from the international character of the alliance, the chief interest of the war for military historians lies in the application of new technology. Precision-guided munitions and night sights gave the alliance a superiority which was especially telling in the desert, with its distant horizons and lack of natural cover.

The Iraqi battle plans were no less crucial. They dug in their tanks and artillery with such diligence that they could not get out of the way of the allied offensive or even redirect their line of fire. Such tactics might have worked well in their last war, against untrained, ill-equipped Iranian infantry, but in a high-tech environment they proved futile. Their tank squadrons were left with little choice but to surrender. De la Billière includes a short, fascinating account by the commanding officer of 4th Infantry Brigade of what it was like going to war in a Challenger tank, when night was turned into day by thermal imaging. But this only whets one's appetite for more.

By contrast, the tale of intensive preparation — the politics, the PR, the supplies build-up — tells us little we did not know already. The book gains strength from its author's reputation. If de la Billière does not know the story, no one does. But his sword appears far mightier than his pen.

He turned a language of lead to gold

The public image of Chaucer, as far as it survives, might have been taken from *The Canterbury Tales* itself, that of cheerful Chaucer, honest Chaucer, wise Chaucer. But even in the terms of Derek Pearsall's excellent account, he can also be seen as ambitious Chaucer, uncaring Chaucer, "defensive and self-protective" Chaucer. Of course these are not incompatible histories, since the greatest of poets are often the most selfish of people, and it is the merit of Pearsall's book that he returns England's first true poet to the middle, viciousness and disorder of 14th-century London. He insists continually that we divest ourselves of modern preoccupations — about war, about religion, about chivalry, even about literature — in order to see Geoffrey Chaucer as he was.

What kind of portrait emerges? He was the son of a prosperous vintner of Thames Street, and at once Pearsall enters a forgotten city of monastic gardens, farmyards and libraries where "most of the noise would come from church bells". There is no evidence that he

ever went to grammar school or university, and in fact it is likely that the most fluent and comprehensive of English stylists had his education at court. He was a page in the household of the Countess of Ulster (it was in this society he learnt his French), went to war as a valet, and was thereafter a court official. In 1374 he became a controller of wool and petty custom, while all the time managing to stay out of court trouble or bureaucratic controversy.

Perhaps the most potent image of Chaucer's life during this period is of him as a customs official and esquire of the royal household living above Aldgate — literally watching the life of London pass beneath him in the shape of the cook, the miller or the priest. But there is another connection between his life and his poetry: Pearsall describes his career as a customs official as one of "accommodations and silences", and pertinently relates that habitually courteous and discreet manner to the procedures of his verse, where authorial silence and suspended judgment are as important as any of the formidable allegorical figures.

This presumes that he was a very sophisticated writer indeed, and one of the strengths of Pearsall's account lies in his exploration of Chaucer's own poetic self-consciousness. He may have seemed merely "clever, funny and inoffensive" to his contemporaries, but there was a sterner and more ambitious man beneath this figure of the time, who gradually became aware of "his own centrality in

Peter Ackroyd

THE LIFE OF
GEOFFREY CHAUCER

By Derek Pearsall
Blackwell, £19.95



Chaucer: ignored great events

English culture" and who decided to assert this by making what was then the surprising decision to write in English.

As is demonstrated by the newly published first two volumes of *The Cambridge History of the English Language* (Volume One: The Beginnings to 1066, edited by Richard M. Hogg; Volume Two: 1066-1476, edited by Norman Blake, Cambridge, £60 each), there was not much to assist him. The wealth of information in these volumes — on syntax and phonology, semantics and morphology — serves only to emphasise the frailty or paucity of Chaucer's inheritance — if it can

be called an inheritance at all, since the alliterative poetry of Old English seems to have been forgotten, and there was no "standardised written language" nor any "sense of a tradition as we understand it today". He would have known, in the rough English tongue, only some devotional literature, some jog-trot romances, and the poetry of an alliterative revival to which, emphatically, he did not attach himself. And so he seems to have decided to create his own tradition instead, thereby confirming his genius for ever.

It was, according to Pearsall, a visit to Italy in his mid-thirties that really changed him. Here he recognised how poets were honoured, and how vernacular poetry (even in this home of Latin) could be revered. It seems likely that he returned to England with the ambition of achieving a similar feat for himself and for his own culture. He appropriated French and Italian models in order to strengthen his native tongue; he took a language of lead, turning it into silver and then to gold.

It is customary these days for novelists and poets to be asked to write about "contemporary problems". Let us contemplate instead the achievement of Geoffrey Chaucer, for whom the Pearsall's *Revolt* provided material for only two pieces of stray humour. He exhibits "scarcely a sign of any direct response to the political and social movements of his day", and yet remains the representative poet of his period.

Pearsall provides another gloss upon the period in his emphasis on Chaucer's role as an adaptor or imitator, or even plagiarist. It has been customary in recent years to consider poets as individual fabricators, creators whose work issues from some self-sustaining and self-renewing source of originality. It was not always so, and to read Chaucer correctly we have to return to a Catholic culture in which reverence for literary authority and for impersonal forms of rhetoric was the strongest compulsion in the creation of verse. Chaucer himself found his styles and his themes in the act of translation, and Pearsall notes justly here how the very shape of his work was determined by his immersion in *Roman de la Rose*, in Boccaccio, in Boethius. By these means he absorbed the European tradition, and by means of imitation and adaptation found his own central voice.

The reward for his ambition and his persistence was, of course, fame. By his forties he was as successful a man as he was a writer. Like many great artists, also, he wrote his finest work at the end of his life. He never ceased to experiment, to improvise and to learn — that is why *The Canterbury Tales*, a loose collection of tales in various styles, is truly his monument. One contemporary wrote of his deathbed anguish and remorse, but these sound like the usual pious trappings of the envious chronicler. He died knowing that he had created the language and for the first time displayed a truly English genius.

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Resurrection of the body

Savouring Stanley Spencer's splendid catalogue raisonné, David Ekserdjian is inclined to rate him with the best artists of our time

Stanley Spencer, the little man from Cookham, succeeded in having a profoundly manipulative effect upon the appreciation of his own work. In contrast to the unhappy legions of falling stars who pluckily maintain that their best days are just around the next corner, he insisted that in his case the spark of genius had been snuffed out almost before it was kindled — and convinced the world he was right.

Only in the last 15 years or so — with the help of important exhibitions at the Fitzwilliam, the Royal Academy and the Barbican, and now with the publication of this monumental *catalogue raisonné* — has it become possible to contemplate Spencer's achievement with a measure of critical distance. There can be no question that this unusually handsome, well-illustrated and meticulously researched volume will be the point of departure for all subsequent evaluations of Spencer.

He was born in 1891. Of the *Apple Gatherers* of 1912-13, he wrote: "I felt moved to some utterance, a sense of almost miraculous power, and arising from the joy of my own circumstances and surroundings." For Spencer himself this was his finest hour, but there is no need to deny the slightly gauche power of these early pictures in a Giotto-inspired neo-primitive vein to feel that Spencer's greatest works actually date from the years between the wars.

Far from having lost his way amid the horrors he experienced in Macedonia, he returned to paint works which combine the visionary with the intensely observed, notably, in the cycle of canvases for the Sandham Memorial Chapel at Burghclere, not to mention his masterpiece, *The Resurrection*, Cookham, which was bought by the Tate in 1927 for £750.

These were also the years of the extraordinary domestic fantasies that culminate in the *Beatitudes*, with their images of a diminutive Stan being loomed over by voluptuous and voluminous females even when busy tending bread on the fire in the nude. The same order of experience is treated in more photographic vein in the pictures that are the consequence of the personally disastrous but creatively fruitful liaison with his second wife, Patricia Preece, whom he painted in alarming and unyielding close-up, whether or not he elected to include himself.

The explicit sexuality of these works suggests a parallel with the productions of such *Neue Sachlichkeit* figures as Christian Schad, and looks forward to the School of London, and above all Lucien Freud. However, Spencer's pursuit of the grand manner and his interest in



Self-portrait, 1959: last and most moving of Spencer's self-portraits, this shows the dying artist gazing from behind lopsided glasses

allegory alongside realism made comparison with another increasingly revered artist, Max Beckmann, seem peculiarly apposite. Spencer's later works are more drily painted than what came before, but admiration for them only grows, as the market showed a few years ago when £1.3 million was paid for the magnificent and chilling *Crucifixion* of 1958, painted for the chapel of Aldenham School only a year before his death. These years also produced a particularly rich crop of commissioned portraits and landscapes, which Spencer tended to dismiss as "potboilers".

Yet the portraits are models of their kind, all present and correct as far as the requisite official trappings are concerned, but at the same time intensely penetrating. As for the landscapes, they are far too well made simply to be dismissed as chocolate-boxy, for all their evocation of a *Mrs Miniver* England that never was. Indeed, it may well be that they only increase in potency as the world they record — however idyllically — fades

into the past. Keith Bell, who was the high priest of the 1980 RA show, which was roughly half the size of the present catalogue, has marshalled all the material with exemplary thoroughness, even to the extent of finding what looks suspiciously like a Spencer fake. He also provides an introduction that is more biographical than evaluative, but does not shy away from expressing his own point of view. If anything, however, he is over-

burdened by the sheer abundance of surviving information, and perhaps quotes contemporary reviews with undue reverence. On the other hand, these do at least reveal just how robust some critics could be, as when Wyndham Lewis, in a generally favourable piece, remarked that "His naivety is painful, like the oppressive archness of a self-conscious little girl". But it may well be that Spencer, with his pudding basin haircut and his pramful of paints, will have the last laugh. In the wake of his own century, it is not self-evident that our century has produced a better British painter.

Now the poet D. J. Enright, with his French wife Madeleine, has combed through the translation again, and while still preserving the seductiveness of Scott Moncrieff's sentences, has put right some more inaccuracies. A good example is a remark Swann's mistress Odette makes about the elderly marquise, Mme de Villeparisis.

Mme de Villeparisis is a woman of particularly noble birth, and in fact gives one of the seven great parties around which the whole novel revolves; but she dresses in a simple, old-fashioned way. When Odette sees her out in the street in her black woollen dress she cannot believe she is a woman of any importance. "Mais elle a l'air d'une ouvrière, d'une vieille concierge, darling," she says to Swann. "That *ouvrière* (literally "worker") has given a lot of trouble. Scott Moncrieff came up with the odd suggestion: "But she looks like a

pew-opener, like an old charwoman." Kilmartin knew it was not Proust's mind, but he decided it was lavatories: "She looks like a lavatory attendant, like an old charwoman," he wrote. It has fallen to Enright to get it right at last: "She looks like an usherette, like an old concierge, darling." *Ouvrière* was the word for an usherette who opened the doors of boxes in a theatre. Enright has also finally recognised that the English know what a concierge is, so he has changed back the other translators' unnecessary "charwoman".

There has been another *Pléiade* edition in France since 1954: in 1987-89 a vast scholarly work came out, with notes, variants and so on running to twice the length of the already enormous novel. When the editors were not sure where Proust wanted a passage to appear they sometimes printed it in both places. Luckily Enright has not taken over much of this material, just added a few short passages which contribute fresh interest and pleasure.

French scholars think Proust also wanted to drop some sections of the volume called *The Fugitive*. In 1989, Chamo brought out a version of that volume, entitled *Albertine* Gone, in which not only Albertine had gone but also some of the best bits of the novel. It must have been the only book that has ever been sold to the public on the grounds that it contained far less than the previous version. Luckily Enright has ignored these cuts too.

This is the best reading version yet. Kilmartin's three volumes were too heavy; these six are printed in quite large type, with good margins, but are still easy to carry around. The sixth volume includes Kilmartin's guide to the novel, based on a feature of the *Pléiade* edition. If you have become fascinated again (or indeed for the first time) by the Baron de Charlus, say, or by Françoise the servant, you can look up the references to them and piece together their biographies from their appearances over the years.

The appearance of this new edition also has its significance in the realm of Time. It arrives in the bookshops just in advance of an entirely new translation of Proust by the American Richard Howard, which starts coming out next year.

Derwent May is the author of Proust (*OUP Past Masters*).

New model madeleine

Marcel Proust's great novel has a new title. In the freshly revised, six-volume edition that Chatto & Windus publish this week, they have finally given in to pressure from decades of scholars, and on the orange jackets we find the literal translation of the French title: *In Search of Lost Time*. Like the Treaty of Maastricht, it probably had to come.

When G. K. Scott Moncrieff started publishing the first, famous translation of the book in 1922, the year Proust died, he evidently thought it imaginative to garland it with the quotation from a Shakespeare sonnet, *Remembrance of Things Past*. It was a title in keeping with the florid, Edwardian tone of his translation, and its poetic resonance very likely helped to sell the book to the English at the time.

I still find myself greatly attached to that title — perhaps because like any name (even a name such as *Radio Times*), it has come with the years to mean simply the object it refers to, all previous associations of the words having faded. But it has to be admitted that it is not what Proust intended. He was not writing about idle remembrance but about arduous search: the kind of dedication he himself displayed in the 12 years of illness and solitude that he spent

Derwent May

IN SEARCH OF

LOST TIME

By Marcel Proust

Translated by G. K. Scott

Moncrieff, revised by

Terence Kilmartin and

D. J. Enright

Chatto & Windus,

six volumes £90

writing his novel. Precision must now win the day. It is the artist who recovers Time for us, not the dreamer.

What else has this revised edition of *A la recherche* got to offer? The late Terence Kilmartin brought out an extensive revision of Scott Moncrieff's translation in 1981. He incorporated various changes that the French editors of the splendid 1954 *Pléiade* edition had made after studying Proust's manuscripts and proofs. He also skillfully tightened up Scott Moncrieff's prose without losing any of its expressive rhythms, and corrected many errors made by his dashing but sometimes careless predecessor.

Now the poet D. J. Enright, with his French wife Madeleine, has combed through the translation again, and while still preserving the seductiveness of Scott Moncrieff's sentences, has put right some more inaccuracies. A good example is a remark Swann's mistress Odette makes about the elderly marquise, Mme de Villeparisis.

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Brave new Africa

It is said that when Sir Richard Attenborough returned home after filming *Cry Freedom* in Zimbabwe, he took with him a fine collection of modern Shona sculpture: twisted grey-granite forms full of the ancient energy of the continent but with more than a hint of reference to European artistic tradition. At about the same time Doris Lessing made the first of four visits to Zimbabwe, the land where she was born and from which she was banished for 25 years. If the Shona craftsmen could unite the traditions of Africa and Europe in their smooth stone, Lessing's sketches are an agonising reflection of the relationship, of which her own experience had been just one unhappy example.

When Lessing returned to Zimbabwe in 1982, she found a country still in trauma from the civil war of which independence had been the only fruit. In the people she recognised the shock of war that she was to encounter among Afghan refugees on a later visit to Peshawar and which she recognised from the simmering anger of the drunken, crippled soldiers she had seen demobilised on a station platform in Berlin after the second world war. Here was a country of great beauty and resources, torn apart between black and white, north and south. Its fighters, returning from the Bush after 15 years, found little prospect of reconciliation. Unemployment soared, and the rift between Robert Mugabe and his long-time opponent Joshua Nkomo meant some even returned to Manabeleland where the battle continued in the form of a sporadic bush war.

As far as the whites were concerned, talk in the early 1980s was of "taking the Gap" — emigrating to South Africa where white minority rule was at least still intact. Lessing, exiled for her support of the black majority, found her political views still under scrutiny on her return. She was acknowledged with suspicion among the whites who remembered her be-

Tanya Sillem

AFRICAN LAUGHTER

Four Visits to Zimbabwe

By Doris Lessing

HarperCollins, £16.95

THE AYE-AYE

AND I

By Gerald Durrell

HarperCollins, £15.99



Doris Lessing in 1950: ironies

trayal, not least her own brother, Harry. Most of the farmers continued to live behind the huge wire fences that ensured protection from terrorist attack, and provided a laager against the encroachment of the now liberated majority. The whites still lived in splendour, with servants and a lifestyle rare in Europe. Although many still had reason to fear for their safety, most resorted to what Lessing called "The Monologue" at any opportunity. This was a series of attacks on the inefficiency and corruption of the black government of Mugabe's excessive personal security arrangements and the state of the economy. Its delivery was a bitter triumph in the face of defeat. Harry himself eventually "took the Gap", and was to die in South Africa.

On successive visits to Zimbabwe, Lessing found that white resistance was crumbling, and by 1988 most diehard supporters of Ian Smith's Rhodesian cause had gone south anyway. Perhaps Lessing overcame the essential sadness of her own exile by exorcising their ghosts on these pages. Certainly the book's

mood lightens as she proceeds, with evident delight to sketch Zimbabwe's first faltering steps as a truly multiracial society. But the new-found confidence of young blacks was only skin deep, for here was a new generation which mistreated its servants as it had seen whites do, yet also slaughtered rhino, which had become associated with white values.

There is not much laughter that is not ironic in these 450 pages. It is tempting to reach for Lessing's fiction, though, for a more convincing style. This is a sketchbook, but the brush strokes are too informally applied to sustain interest. If Lessing used diary notebooks for her material, these should have been more ruthlessly edited.

Some 20 years before Zimbabwe gained its independence, Madagascar had uncoupled itself from imperial France. While in other parts of Africa the fight against poverty was waged against people, the Madagascans turned against their forests, slashing and burning a unique natural habitat. Most of Madagascar's flora and fauna are found nowhere else in the world, and in *The Aye-Aye* and *I Gerald Durrell* describes his crusade to save the Aye-Aye from extinction. This creature is, by any standards, strange in appearance, and looks to the inexperienced eye like an ordinary rodent endowed with extraordinary teeth.

For Durrell, failing to save the Aye-Aye was as unthinkable as turning the Sistine Chapel into a disco. In his approach to conservation Durrell has always seemed an unlikely cross between James Bond and Enid Blyton, and there are lashings of ginger beer to be consumed here. Durrell was an eco-evangelist decades before animal rights campaigners ever thought of sticking chewing gum to fur coats, and his enthusiasm remains as infectious as ever.

Tanya Sillem is a presenter and reporter for BBC Breakfast News.

London brigands and fair ladies

Gillian Tindall

LONDON

A Literary Companion

By Peter Vansittart

John Murray, £16.95

Many Londons exist, according to Peter Vansittart: "mythical, historical, literary, topographical, at times so personal as to become mystical." No one who has a stake in London can fail to take pleasure in this new addition to Murray's series, but "literary" begs a question which is never quite addressed. What may it not include? Vansittart echos what he calls "the cataloguing of famous names in verbal blue plaques"; his is less of a detailed guide than is Ian Littlewood's volume on Paris. Yet Vansittart, like Littlewood, divides up his book topographically, which imposes an almost too-concrete structure on his vagrant and often esoteric material. What, for instance, is one to make of Rossetti's wallpaper? "I shall have it printed on common brown packing paper and on blue grocer's paper... The trees are to stand the whole height of the room... The stems and fruit will be Venetian red, the leaves black." I am tempted to reproduce this charming decorative scheme myself; but, apart from the house happening to be near Blackfriars, it has little to do with London.

The literary claim of this passage, like Lamb's portentously prosaic description of his lodgings, rests on the fame of the author. Much of the material in this book, however, comes from more obscure writers looking more directly at London. On the whole fact is preferred to fiction: we are given glimpses of prelapsarian suburban childhoods, or alternatively of historic murders from genteel addresses, rather than London strained through the novelist's optic.

Resisting the temptation to load his book with Dickens, he includes for Highgate cemetery an arresting Dickensian passage from Galsworthy: "Adhwait the Victorian dykes the waters were falling on property, manners and morals, and melody and the old forms of art —

waters bringing to his mouth a salt taste as of blood lapping to the foot of Highgate Hill where Victorianism lay buried."

Modern writers are also allowed in: we have a paragraph from Anita Brookner's *Look At Me* on the horror of an underpass at night to a lone woman and another in the same vein on the Rotherhithe tunnel by Iain Sinclair. But with so many riches to choose from, why include a eulogy by John Braine, written long after his once-keen discrimination between real and bogus had melted away?

Unspoken distinctions hover in this engaging volume: the lost dream-London of Morris, "small and white and clean", exists in antithesis to the despoiled Tower Hamlets of Arthur Morrison or H. M. Tomlinson, but these "real life" pictures are themselves part of a legend which, with the passing of time, has acquired its own iridescent dream quality. Vansittart, who, as a novelist, is a master of historical evocation, quotes a hallucinatory passage about London under fire from William Sansom ("Swiftly the life of the house blossomed... A new growth was sprouting everywhere").

Yet almost the most haunting extract of all comes from that resolutely worldly Londoner, Pepsy: "picked up the fairest flower and by coach to Tophill Fields till it was dark. I light, and with the fairest flower to eat a cake and there did do as much as was safe with my flower, and that was enough on my part."

In what does Pepsy exist when all is utterly changed? Think of this as you pass along the Embankment.

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Oxford flourish in early examination

A tant first quarter was enlivened by the deft handling

Joseph M. Bryson (Gloves)



Kahn 23, was named yesterday to fill the position occupied by Michael Lynagh until the Australian captain dislocated his shoulder during the win over Ireland last month. Since then, the management has toyed with the idea of playing Tim Horan out of position and looked at the qualities of Tim Wallace, the

But an obvious reluctance to break up the world's most successful centre pairing, Horan and Jason Little, coupled with the inexperience of Wallace, left the management with no option but to choose Kahl in the knowledge that he has also played for Queensland with Peter Slattery when-

proviso*. Greg Craig, the Australian physiotherapist, said, Eales did light training yesterday and is improving rapidly but a final decision will be made today.

If Eales is unfit, his replacement is unlikely to be Garrick Morgan, who tore attachments to abdominal muscles at Ebbw Vale on Tuesday.

on Saturday. Mike Rayer, his club-mate, was promoted to full back after Tony Clement withdrew injured on Tuesday.

AUSTRALIA: M G Roebuck (NSW); D J Campese (NSW), J B Little (Queensland), T J Horan (Queensland), P V Camozzi (Queensland), P Kahl (Queensland), P J Slattery (Queensland); D J Crowley (Queensland), P N Kearns (NSW, capt), E J A McInnis (NSW), V O'Connell (NSW), R J J McCall (Queensland), J A Estes (Queensland), D Wilson (Queensland), B T Swain (NSW).

Hisao Iijima, the prolific scorer for Lancing, hit two as the Sussex school survived the long trip to Hulme grammar school, in Oldham, where they won 3-2. Brentwood, who have Frank Lampard, the son of the former West Ham stalwart Frank Lampard, in

The semi-finals will be played in the Lent term and once the finalists are known the search for a ground to host the final will begin.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Brentwood v St Bede's, Bradford v Cherteshouse, Forest v Lancing, Highgate v Shrewsbury.

By then, some of the under-21 squad can expect to have graduated to Broomhead's senior party. The under-21s are in Fiji for the world youth tournament, in which they are in a group with New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji.

"We were also encouraged by the fact that they were both sell-outs."

ENGLAND UNDER-21 SQUAD (in *Fig.*) N Andrews (Cheshire), S Brown (Bedfordshire), N Gabriel (Bedfordshire), J Hall (Greater Manchester), J Lawton (Middlesex), J Mansoor (Bedfordshire), C Miskell (Essex Metropolitan), S O'Brien (Derbyshire), L Sheridan (Bedfordshire), A Wood (Nottinghamshire), A Woods (Suffolk), J Zinnari (Middlesex).

Better choice
From Mr J. L. Wall
Sir, It is surprising, after their

Sir, It is surprising, after their tour of Ireland and Wales, that Australia's rugby union fixture with the Barbarians should be played at Twickenham, especially in view of the

Yours faithfully,
ASOKA THENABADU,
29 Longdown Lane North,
Epsom,
Surrey.

While South Africans are trying desperately to dismantle prejudice in the form of

Sauce?
Yours faithfully,
PETER FLEMING,
11 Albion Street,
Lewes, East Sussex.

To arrange fixtures with the Baths and Harlequins would be to demean the divisional championship, enhance the

What a shame the sponsorship didn't go to our intrepid downhillers! They can and do compete successfully and are old enough to make their own minds up.

Yours faithfully,

media seem to regard the four-year Olympic cycle as perhaps three months of excess interest.

Yours sincerely,
R. C. COPEMAN,
PO Box 174,
Birmingham 5.

SOLUTION TO WINN
The diversionary tactic 1 Rxa8!
nxb5 and white has won a piece

The diversionary tactic 1 Rxa8! does the trick, e.g. 1 ... Rxa8 2 nxb5 and white has won a piece.

Ladbroke's make Jodami 5-1 for Hennessy after fine trial

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Dillon, the eminence grise of horseracing, has taken a view — and thrown the betting for the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup into confusion.

The Ladbroke's odds-maker yesterday installed Jodami as 5-1 favourite for the Newbury showpiece despite defeat on his seasonal debut at Haydock.

Peter Beaumont's chaser, one of the top novices last year, jumped beautifully through the Edward Hamner Memorial Chase but tired on the long run-in and was deprived of victory by Run For Free.

"Very impressive. A terrific performance by a proper racehorse and the Hennessy success second-season chasers," Dillon commented after chalking up his big-race favourite.

A few hundred miles away at Kempton Park, the William Hill representative offered 12-1 against Jodami, which lasted as long as toast at breakfast time. The price was quickly trimmed to 10-1 while Corals offer 8-1. Both firms have Captain Dibble as favourite.

With the previous three winners of the Hennessy — Chatham, Arctic Call and Ghofar — all having been in their second season as chasers and Jodami set to carry 10st 2lb, the Ladbroke caution is understandable.

Jodami, who just went down to Bradbury Star when beating Run For Free in the Mumm Midway Chase at Aintree in April, left the season's chaser Romany King for dead as yesterday's race began in earnest in the straight.

"We knew he would need the race and he will be better for it. He jumped really well," Beaumont said.

Mark Dwyer, who partnered Galway Blaze to Hennessy success in 1985, remarked: "That was fantastic. He jumped brilliantly and only got tired at the finish."

Run For Free is far from certain to run in the Hennessy, especially if, as expected, Peter Scudamore partners Chatham, last year's winner, who has been again laid out for the race by Martin Pipe.

Yesterday's winner, who will have provided Pipe with a good indication of Chatham's chances, may be sited at the Rehearsal Chase followed by the Coral Welsh National.

Gambling Royal, the progressive chaser trained by David Nicholson, also thrust himself into the Hennessy picture after running out an easy winner of the TriplePrint Boxing Day Trial Chase at Kempton.

Looking as though he would come on for his season-

al debut, Gambling Royal's victory will have produced many a cheer at a Cornwall meet packing business.

Graham Roach, the former permit holder and owner of Gambling Royal, employs around 600 people at St Austell and many snapped up the 25-1 being offered earlier in the month. Ladbroke's now go 10-1.

Nicholson commented: "I hoped he was fit enough to do himself justice but no decision will be made about the Hennessy until the weekend."



Gifford: keeping close watch on Ascot going

and we see how he has come out of the race.

"It has been a bit of a rush getting him here. He has been back in only five weeks. When he left in Liverpool in April he chipped a bone in his hock and so needed a long time off."

Graham has done all the work on him at home.

The Gambling Royal victory provided Richard Dunwoody with the middle leg of a 76-1 treble, begun with Calaper in the Arlington Premier Series Chase and completed by Camelot Knight, who is closely related to Tipping Tim.

John Gifford confirmed Bradbury Star was most likely to run in the H & T Walker Chase at Ascot on Saturday for which he is now 11-4 favourite, provided there is no heavy rain.

"I don't think he would want it too soft. If it got boggy in Swinley Bottom I would not run. He wants life in the ground."

The Finton trainer also has Deep Sensation in the race and confided he is the preferred choice of many of his lads before adding, tongue in cheek, "but they have never been right before."

Gifford was speaking after saddling a hurdling double, completed with the minimum of fuss by Run Up The Flag and Poots Wood.

Kempton feature has new sponsor

By RICHARD EVANS

THE new sponsor of the King George VI Chase, jumping's mid-season highlight, is negotiating to buy a horse to win his own race.

George Ward, chairman of Europe's largest independent colour photo processing company, is supporting the two-day Christmas jumping festival at Kempton to take his sponsorship in British racing to around £500,000 a year.

Ward, whose leading brand name is TriplePrint and BouncePrint, said: "I have a horse in mind for the King George which I think would be capable of winning the race, not necessarily this year. Negotiations are underway. It would be a lovely finish to a nice story."

Already Kempton's longest established sponsor, Ward adopts a strictly business attitude to supporting racing. "It is not philanthropic. It is commercially viable and valuable. It is also pleasurable and profitable."

While the names of Ward's businesses and products will be incorporated into the names of 11 of the 12 races at the Christmas meeting, the main attraction will be called the King George VI Chase, sponsored by TriplePrint.

Twin Oaks can scale heights again on favoured course

MANDARIN

MANDARIN

TWIN Oaks, who has been beaten only once in seven races at Haydock, returns to his happy hunting ground today to contest the Tim Molony Memorial Chase under top weight.

However, that defeat in the Greenalls Gold Cup last March was far from being a disgrace because he was endeavouring to give weight when third in the subsequent Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Cool Ground, and the in-form Kildimo.

Prior to that; Twin Oaks had been in invincible form there, winning the Mitsubishi Shogun Trophy and the Peter Marsh Handicap in the space of a fortnight in January.

Twin Oaks had first shown his liking for the Lancashire track the season before when he picked up a £50,000 bonus by winning four times in succession there.

Faced with the choice of going for either the more valuable Edward Hamner Memorial Chase there yesterday or today's longer feature race, Gordon Richards picked the latter because Twin Oaks will be meeting his four rivals between 15lb and 38lb better terms than if they were able to compete from off their official ratings.

In the circumstances Twin Oaks will have to be well below his best not to benefit and it is not the case according to reports coming out of Greystoke.

Of those who have run.

Abbot Of Furness, who captured the Tannem Lager Hurdle by 12 lengths at Ayr last Saturday, should be capable of defying only a 4lb penalty in the Haydock Gold Card Hurdle, thus becoming a second winner for the Gordon Richards stable.

At Wincanton, Boraceva, Rockstar and Foyle Fisherman, who finished second, third and fifth respectively behind Captain Dibble in the Badger Beer Chase at the last meeting on the Somerset track, renew rivalry in the Lord Stalbridge Memorial Gold Cup.

On the previous occasion, Boraceva finished a neck ahead of Rockstar with Foyle Fisherman 40 lengths behind. That however was a handicap with a weight range limited to 21lb. In today's handicap Rockstar is 6lb better off with Boraceva and looks capable of winning.

Today's nap though is Saint Ciel to win the Bacombe Novices' Handicap Hurdle in the care of Adrian Maguire.

This Frank Jordan-trained four-year-old has been hooded for the occasion by a good run on the Flat 12 days ago at Doncaster, where he was beaten a neck and the same by Pippin Park and Lots Of Luck.

Saint Ciel only has to run as well as he did in his first race over hurdles at Newbury last season, when he was beaten a length-and-a-half by Kayfash, to make full advantage of his lenient mark in today's handicap.

He also ran well enough in valuable novice hurdles at Fairhouse and Punctestown to suggest that he can make telling use of the weight he now receives from the easy Carlisle winner High Altitude.

Persian House, my choice for the Makersfield Novices' Chase, was unfortunate to come up against the useful Fighting Words at Wetherby last time, having won nicely enough himself at Market Rasen the time before.

HAYDOCK PARK

MANDARIN
1.25 Only A Rose.
1.55 Bad Trade.
2.25 Twin Oaks.
2.55 Lo Stregone.
3.25 Persian House.
3.55 Abbot Of Furness.

RICHARD EVANS: 3.55 Switch.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.55 LO STREGONE.

GOING: SOFT

1.25 NORTHERN JUNIOR HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,917; 2m 4f) (5 runners)

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1.55 RAINFORD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (22.217; 2m 4f) (3 runners)

101 KILBRID 10st 10lb (5) (P) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

1.55 RAINFORD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (22.217; 2m 4f) (3 runners)

101 KILBRID 10st 10lb (5) (P) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

1.55 RAINFORD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (22.217; 2m 4f) (3 runners)

101 KILBRID 10st 10lb (5) (P) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (

CHINA

5.00 Camoens: 1957
 7.05 The Big Breakfast: 1981, Chris Evans and Bob Taylor: 1982
 9.00 You Bet Your Life: 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2




3.36 The Big Bang

[illegible]

2) 6.30 8.00am Rainbow
and The African T

[illegible]

Abstract



**'Her dad hates
'bloody Christmas'.
She absolutely
dreads it.**

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NSPCC

10-2 would not be a representative sample of the population. ☐

هكذا من الأصل

Withdrawals fail to halt N Zealand tour

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Colombo: The New Zealand cricket players voted to continue their tour of Sri Lanka yesterday, but without five players and the coach, Warren Lees, after the bomb explosion that killed five people outside the team's hotel on Monday.

The tour management, led by the chairman of New Zealand Cricket, Peter McDermott, persuaded the team to reverse a vote on Monday, when the majority of the 15-man squad wanted to abandon the tour. McDermott had flown into Colombo on Tuesday night to try to salvage the series.

Players who wanted to return home were allowed to do so on compassionate grounds. Mark Greatbatch, Dipak Patel, Gavin Larsen, Rod Latham and Willie Watson, along with Lees, were scheduled to depart for New Zealand late yesterday.

McDermott said Lees would not be replaced. His duties will be shared by Crowe, Andrew Jones, the vice-captain, and another team member. Officials were busy contacting four playing replacements to join the tour party as soon as possible.

A local newspaper here quoted Allan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, as saying that the "sad events" in Sri Lanka might have implications for England's brief tour of the island in March.

"Of course it would not have been very good for us if the New Zealand tour was cancelled, but I am sorry that some officials of the English board have said that England's tour could be affected because of this incident," he said. It is thought that the tour management will be advised

by the Foreign Office before making a decision.

Tyronne Fernando, president of the Sri Lankan cricket board, criticised Smith's comments, describing them as surprising and unfair. "I am surprised to hear this from people in London, who are having bombs explode almost every day. In fact, I feel unsafe to travel to London for the ICC meeting in January," Fernando said.

The bomb, carried on a motorcycle by a Tamil suicide rider, killed navy commander Clancy Fernando, his driver and two aides on Monday as the New Zealand players were having breakfast.

Crowe, although personally prepared to stay, originally said the tour should be halted because some players were worried and would not be able to concentrate. But McDermott, after lengthy discussions with players and the team manager, Leif Dearsley, said the tour should not be cancelled because of financial and political ramifications.

McDermott said discussions were taking place with the Sri Lankan authorities as to when the tour should start. He added that an amended tour schedule of two Test matches and three one-day games, instead of the original eight-match itinerary, was being considered. The opening match of the tour, against a Sri Lanka Board XI at Kurunegala on Tuesday, was cancelled.

When New Zealand last toured, in April 1987, a bomb explosion near their hotel killed more than 100 people. The team cut short the tour and went home after one match.

Australia toured the island



Board room: Crowe, right, the New Zealand captain, passes time with Mark Plummer, the team physiotherapist, in the players' hotel yesterday

Crowds prefer day-nights to Tests

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN BLOEMFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA

THERE are ominous signs for South African officials that the paying public here is following the worldwide trend by preferring day-night internationals to five-day Test matches. Barely 30,000 attended the first Test in Durban against India and gate receipts were about £130,000 less than was hoped.

In contrast, almost 30,000 tickets have been sold for the floodlit international at the

Wanderers in Johannesburg on December 12. Only 5,000 tickets have been sold for next week's Test match on the same ground. It is possible that the Transvaal Cricket Union may announce reductions today in Test ticket prices.

Locally it is still hoped that the South African public can be re-educated to enjoy Test matches after two decades without five-day games. "It is too early to draw definite

conclusions," said Cassim Doctat, the Natal Cricket Union president, who had hoped that attendances for the Durban Test would reach 60,000. This would have brought in about £240,000 bearing in mind various concessional tickets.

"In fact, we were unfortunate because in addition to losing the entire fourth day on Monday to rain, the Test clashed with the end of the

academic year's examinations. Neither students nor school children attended in the numbers anticipated," Doctat said. Television fees and sponsorship were unaffected.

The Indians had a turbulent flight through sand storms en route to this city, the country's judicial capital and the heartland of conservative Afrikaanders. They start a four-day game tomorrow against an Invitation XI which is made up of Test match candidates and promising black players from the development programme.

But Lapsas said he was disappointed by Paparemborde's move and indicated a power struggle was likely at the meeting on December 12. Lapsas said he thought Paparemborde was trying to get even with people within the federation. "But I don't see why Pierre Berbizier and Christophe Mombet should pay the full price of our defeat," he added. (Reuters)

Lamb awaits Lord's hearing

ALLAN Lamb's appeal against a £5,000 fine for making unauthorised newspaper allegations about Pakistan "ball-doctoring" will be heard at Lord's tomorrow.

Lamb, who is playing in South Africa, will be legally represented.

The appeal is to be heard by a five-man Cricket Council panel, chaired by Judge Des-

mond Perrett and including a Cricketers' Association representative, David Graveney, captain of Durham.

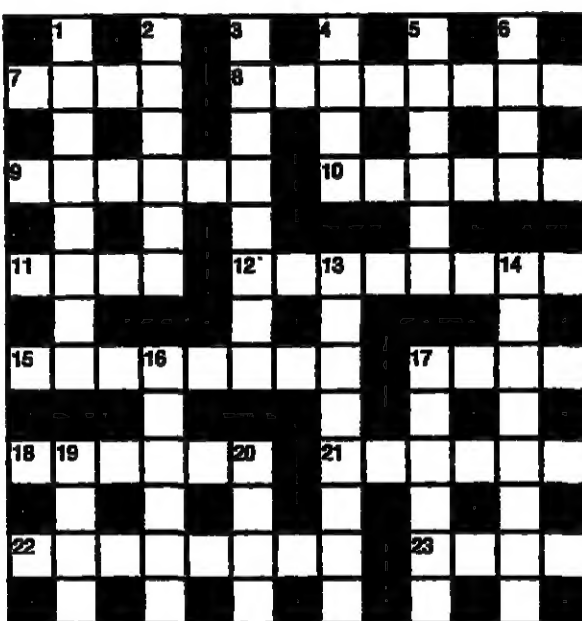
An International Cricket Council investigation neither cleared nor convicted the Pakistani of ball-doctoring, but Lamb was ordered to appear before the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) for breaking his contract by mak-

ing the allegations without permission.

He had already been fined two weeks' wages and suspended for two matches by his county, Northamptonshire, when the TCCB's discipline committee added their punishment.

The TCCB, as well as Lamb, will be represented by Queen's Counsel at the hearing.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2949



- ACROSS**
- Low down (4)
 - Cornet (5)
 - Improve (4,2)
 - Scanty (6)
 - Blessing (4)
 - Single man (8)
 - Dissonance (4)
 - Bull power measure (4)
 - Indian carriage (6)
 - Fierce woman (5)
 - Nitpicker (8)
 - Make better (4)
- DOWN**
- Music half step (5)
 - Fractured (6)
 - Blameworthy (8)
 - Lodgings (4)
 - Threaten (6)
 - Oxford Thames (4)
 - Class (5)
 - Discretionary (8)
 - Air-breathing organism (6)
 - Commendable (6)
 - Yield (4)
 - Shout (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2948

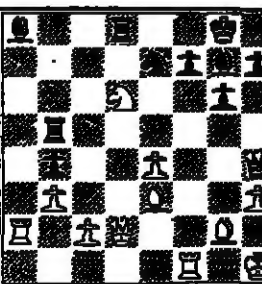
ACROSS: 1 Falls 4 Firing 5 Cockatoo 9 Gel 10 Den 11 Epileptic 12 Dream 13 Equip 16 Diagnosis 18 Hum 20 Log 21 Incubator 22 Discern 23 Bites

DOWN: 1 Faced 2 Liar 3 Streamline 4 Florida 5 Reprehensible 6 Dign 7 Gold Cup 12 Did 14 Unhitch 15 Ashcan 17 Argus 19 Mores

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is a variation from the game Spassky - Fischer, Belgrade (Game 20) 1992. White would like to capture the black rook on b5, but at the moment his knight is pinned against his queen. How does he resolve this difficulty?



Solution on page 43

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts, (runs on most PCs, telephone Atom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hours) or call CDS Doncaster on 0302 890 000. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NEW SLANG

HARVEY SMITH

- A scapegoat
- A traffic warden
- A two-fingered gesture of contempt

RAMMIES

- Wild young drunks
- Mutton chops

Answers on page 43

e. Trousers

- An attractive young woman
 - Father of an illegitimate child
 - A lawyer
- LONG-SLEEVE**
- A homosexual
 - A priest
 - A drink in a tall glass

Distress call was genuine

By MALCOLM MCKEAG

HOPES for the safe discovery of Mike Plant, the missing solo yachtsman, have faded with the realisation that a distress call made two weeks ago and dismissed as a hoax was probably from his boat after all.

Plant left New York on October 16 to sail his 60-foot singlehander, Coyote, to Les Sables d'Olonne, France, for the Globe Challenge race, due to start next weekend. Concern arose when he was overdue, but was tempered by the belief that he had not used his distress beacon.

It has emerged that a distress signal picked up two weeks ago by Canadian coastguards was from Plant after all. The call had not been followed up because Plant appears not to have registered the beacon, which has a unique signal. Test calls of unregistered beacons are not uncommon.

Subsequent checking of sales records with the beacon's suppliers reveal it to have been Plant's. The distress call was made from the area Plant was last seen, south of St John's, Newfoundland, and at a time of severe weather.

The saga of the Royal Corinthian yacht club in Cowes has run full circle with the announcement yesterday that the club is to return to its former home on Castle Rock. The club was evicted two years ago when its clubhouse was bought by a developer, whose business is now in the hands of the receiver. A consortium, led by Pat Dyas, the admiral of the club, has bought the premises back.

Newman drops £12m bid from Lewis into the bin

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE negotiations for a world heavyweight title bout between Riddick Bowe, the champion, and Lennox Lewis, of Britain, took a bizarre turn yesterday. Rock Newman, Bowe's manager, threw an offer of £12 million from Frank Maloney, the manager of Lennox Lewis, the No. 1 contender, into the WBC (World Boxing Council) "bin" and then added Herbie Hide, the Norwich heavyweight, to his list of likely opponents for Bowe's first defence.

It was Newman's version of lighting cigars with dollar bills. Speaking from his office in Washington, Newman said: "Have I received an offer from Maloney? Let me see. Oh, Yeah. I have it." He read out the fax from London and then said: "Hey, Sri, what can you hear on the telephone?" "Paper rustling," I replied, feeling a bit like a character in a Perelman and Fox script. "Yeah," Newman said, "it's me screwing up Maloney's offer. And did you hear that? That's it falling into the garbage."

Newman and Bowe had signed the letter of intent to make the first defence against Lennox Lewis if Bowe won the title from Evander Holyfield last Friday. But after Bowe's victory, Newman has been insisting on having an easy voluntary defence before facing Lewis, even though the World Boxing Council (WBC) has warned that it would strip him if he did not meet Lewis first.

"It shows a lack of understanding on Maloney's part on how to do business," Newman continued, "sending an offer like this! He must

remember he's on the outside looking in. I represent the world heavyweight champion, not him. The offer from Maloney is nothing but a public relations exercise. \$12 million is nothing. When Riddick fights, the minimum he will make is \$18 million at the Mirage. Now, if Maloney was offering \$30 million or \$25 million I could say well it's an earnest offer, we can take it."

Newman said he would be meeting Dan Duva, the promoter of last week's heavyweight title bout in Las Vegas, (who has three options on Bowe and two on Lewis), and Bob Arum, who promotes George Foreman. "If Maloney was to be in on the deal he should be there. There's still a chance of working something out to fight Lewis first, but the most likely scenario is that he will be second."

The list of first opponents that in the beginning included only George Fore-

man and then had Frank Bruno added to it, has now grown to six to include Tommy Morrison, Michael Moorer, Ray Mercer and Hide. "What's Hide's record? Can you give me the number of his manager?" Newman said. "I am definitely interested in Bruno and I'll be talking to Mickey Duff. I spoke to Frank on Friday. He seemed very interested."

Newman still refuses to accept that the WBC will keep to its threat and strip Bowe. "Never in the history of modern boxing has a world heavyweight champion been forced to make a mandatory defence in his first fight after winning the title," Newman said. "The WBC action would not be good for the title. It would break up the title and make Lewis a bastard champion."

Maloney had hoped to put the bout on at Highbury or Old Trafford and calculated he would make about \$5 million from a gate of 40,000 and "millions more from television, HBO and Sky". He said: "If he's [Bowe] the world champion, he should be prepared to fight the No. 1 contender. Bowe's running chicken. We feel we must keep the pressure on Bowe."

Far from feeling any desire to grab the million on the table and run, it seems highly unlikely that Maloney will be hearing from Newman in the near future.

Maloney, who was not too confident about his offer being accepted by Newman when he made it, said: "He's crazy. If he were the president of the United States, he would declare war on the world."



Bowe: signed letter

Acrimony over France's coach

Paris: The former international full back, Pierre Villepreux, was being touted as a replacement for Pierre Berbizier as the national coach of France yesterday as controversy broke out in the aftermath of the home defeat against Argentina on Saturday.

Villepreux, internationally respected as one of the sport's leading coaches but long an outcast in his own country, said he was willing to listen to offers as acrimony broke out among national federation leaders.

On Monday, the general manager of the federation, Robert Paparemborde, said that Berbizier and his assistant, Christophe Mombet, had been dismissed. But the president, Bernard Lapsas, in England for International Rugby Football Board meetings, insisted he had not been consulted and that Berbizier remained in charge.

The issue is to be contested at a federation executive meeting on December 12, though Paparemborde's followers claim they have enough votes to win.

Villepreux, for years coach of the successful Toulouse club, said he had been contacted by Paparemborde to work with Jean-Claude Skrela to restore France as a force in international rugby. Since Berbizier took charge a year ago, France have lost four of ten internationals, culminating in the 24-20 defeat against Argentina in Nantes.

"I will listen," Villepreux said. "But Berbizier hasn't resigned and I'm waiting to see what they will propose. I am available - to listen. Only after that will I give my answer."

Paparemborde also announced he would organise a trial match before the five nations' championship, re-impose a selection committee, instead of letting the coach choose the team, and announce teams at least one week before matches.

But Lapsas said he was disappointed by Paparemborde's move and indicated a power struggle was likely at the meeting on December 12. Lapsas said he thought Paparemborde was trying to get even with people within the federation. "But I don't see why Pierre Berbizier and Christophe Mombet should pay the full price of our defeat," he added. (Reuters)

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